



How to Make Daily Life with MS Easier

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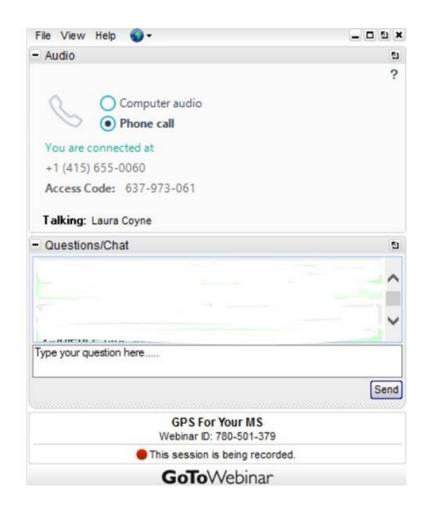




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Daily Life with MS



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Ann Mullinix, otr/L, NBC-HWC



Occupational Therapist, Health & Wellness Coach Minneapolis, MN



Alex Ng, PhD, FACSM



Exercise Physiologist Milwaukee, WI



Learning Objectives

Strategies for making daily activities easier, safer, and more energy efficient

Role of exercise in managing daily activities

The ways that tools and adaptations can benefit you and the whole family



Reflect:
What is your typical day comprised of?

Household activities

Travel

Basic self care



Recreation / leisure

Work

Exercise

Caring for others

Mobility/transportation







What Can Help?

Physical conditioning

Environment modification

Adaptations



Physical Activity

Physical conditioning is the backbone of optimizing your daily life

- Helps manage fatigue and other symptoms
- Contributes to wellness
- Improves or maintains health
- Exercise should be purposeful



Modifying Your Environment

Your home is your sanctuary. Design your environment to meet your needs.

- Mind Focus
 - Be open rearranging & simplify your living space to make it easier to move around
- Heart Focus
 - Invest in what is important to you
 - Invest in sensory comfort
- Body Focus
 - Use smartly! Have your living spaces do the work for you

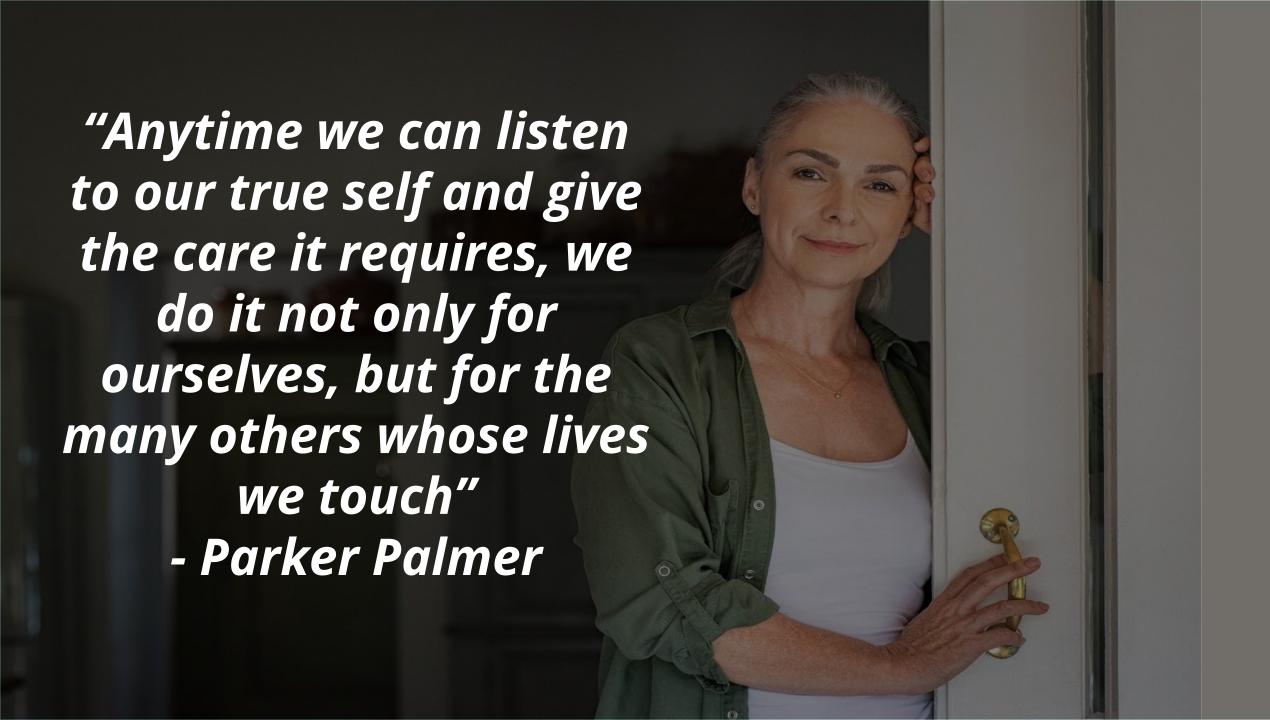


Using Adaptations

Tools & methods simplify the doing.

- Mind Focus
 - Be open to doing things differently to achieve the desired result
- Heart Focus
 - Focus on finding purpose & meaning; place the ego aside
- Body Focus
 - Compensates for weakness, balance, tremors, fatigue





Polling Question



In your daily life, what would you like to be doing more of?



Polling Question



What barriers or obstacles are you facing when doing what you want to do?





I am struggling to get a good night's sleep because I often need to use the bathroom.

How do I overcome the challenges of getting into bed, out of bed, and moving in bed to find a comfortable sleeping position?



Activity: Sleep



Exercise

- Physical Activity counts as well!
- Any and all movement counts!
- Regular exercise is one of the key ingredients in maintaining overall health



Modify

- Physical layout
- Location of bed & access to bedroom
- Declutter for physical safety and mind clearing
- Temperature
- Dark vs light



Adapt

- Sheets: cool, ease of movement
- Bed rails
- Commode
- Aesthetics
- Create a ritual
- Sleep hygiene
- Mindfulness
- Diet

Other Self Care Modifications



















My MS wipes me out. I have a pattern of starting an exercise routine and then stopping it because of fatigue.

Do you have suggestions for how I can be successful in exercising on a regular basis?



Activity: Exercise



Exercise

- Purposeful and regular
- Strive for 150 min/week
- Any movement counts
- Does not need to be continuous
- Make it fun!



Modify

- Have options
- Start small
- Exercise in a cool room or at a cooler time of day
- Exercise when fatigue level is low



Adapt

- Cooling devices: misters, fans, moisture wicking clothing
- Stay hydrated
- Mobility Aides
- Sit to perform instead of stand
- Accountability
- Plan and prep

Other Exercise Modifications





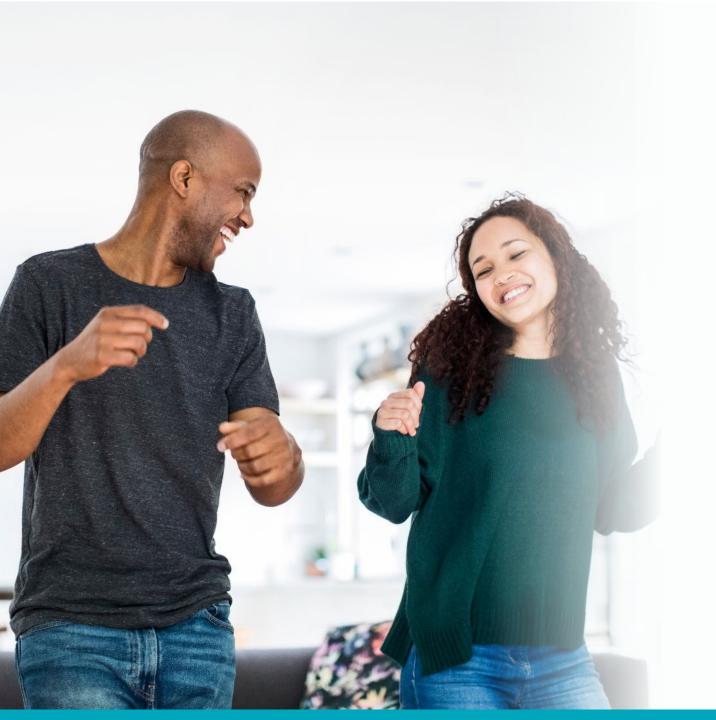












My MS has really worsened over the past two years, impacting the fun my husband and I shared through dancing, biking, and hiking.

Is there anything I can do, or do I need to accept that I have to give it all up?



Activity: Recreation / leisure



Exercise

- Overall conditioning
- These activities count towards physical activity/exercise mins!



Modify

- Have options
- Brainstorm and think out-of-the-box
- Enjoy during the cooler time of day
- Pay attention to your biorhythm



Adapt

- Research and plan
- Three wheel bike
- Adaptive skis
- Partner dance
- Cooling vest
- Align with your purpose
- HAVE FUN!

Other Recreation Modifications















Other Aspects of Daily Life











Key Takeaways

- Every challenge presents an opportunity to choose how you want to respond to it
- Have the mindset of curiosity and positivity to find ways to do more of what you want to do
- Be heart focused: Anchor yourself in activities that are meaningful and bring joy
- Use your body more productively with tools and new approaches
- Exercise is key to daily living ease

Q&A







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Dealing with Anxiety in Today's COVID Landscape

Wednesday, August 10 at 8pm ET

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