Health Skill:
Self-Management

Background Information
The health skill, Self-Management, focuses on building personal responsibility for health by mastering important health practices and recognizing the need to take ownership of one’s actions. Self-management is the ability to demonstrate health practices and behaviors that help to maintain and improve one’s health. The ability to manage oneself includes utilizing health practices that avoid or reduce health risks and accepting personal responsibility for health. There are two core components to mastering the skill of Self-Management: Demonstration of Health Practices and Personal Responsibility. The health skill model includes a table to support data analysis and selection of health practices followed by steps and Teaching Progression that supports students to take personal responsibility of their actions and develop the necessary skills and strategies they need to be healthy and safe.

Notes on Grade Level Progression
Health practice is consistent language used throughout the health skill to represent the progression from initial learning of a strategy/skill to a health behavior as students work towards forming healthy habits.

Activities, vocabulary, and language throughout the grade levels are vertically aligned and build upon one another. If students require scaffolding, refer to previous grade levels for additional ideas for activities and instruction that address gaps in student skills. For enrichment activities, look at higher grade levels in order to provide additional practice opportunities or for ideas on how to deepen understanding.

• Demonstrating teacher-selected health practice
• Defining health and taking care of one’s self

PreK-2

• Defining personal responsibility
• Identifying health practices related to personal responsibilities

3-5

• Identifying areas of personal responsibility
• Researching health practices
• Making healthy habits

6-8

• Sharing health practices with others

9-12

NATIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARD (NHES) 7:
Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

National Health Education Standard Rationale: Research confirms that practicing health-enhancing behaviors can contribute to a positive quality of life. In addition, many diseases and injuries can be prevented by reducing harmful and risk-taking behaviors. This standard promotes the acceptance of personal responsibility for health and encourages the practice of healthy behaviors.
Grades 6-8 Framework

In grades 6-8, students have an opportunity to demonstrate both teacher-selected health practices and health practices they identify that are aligned to the responsibilities they have as middle schoolers. Before using the steps in the Teaching Progression below, teachers should select relevant health practices using the table on page 4. It is important to provide time and space for students to practice these behaviors in the classroom. It may be helpful to select a relevant health practice aligned to different units or contents taught throughout the year, which means Self-Management is woven throughout the school year.

Since students in grades 6-8 begin to take on more responsibility in their life, it is important to teach students to identify their responsibilities and identify health practices they need to learn on their own. In order for students to develop autonomy in Self-Management, it is also important for students to analyze their own personal responsibilities and select health practices that support these responsibilities. To facilitate this learning, the steps in the Teaching Progression for grades 6-8 guide students in this process. First, students begin by identifying and describing the personal responsibilities they have in this stage of their life. Students focus on explaining the importance of a responsibility as it relates to their health. From there, students spend time identifying and researching health practices that help them maintain this responsibility. In Steps 2 and 3, teachers should utilize a project-based learning approach to allow students to explore important health practices and strategies they want to use in their daily life. For further information on project-based learning see the Resource Bank below.
Throughout the Teaching Progression, teachers should conference with students, asking guiding questions as students consider their health practice choices. Conferencing offers an opportunity to identify student support throughout the learning of Self-Management and allows a teacher to collect assessment data as students progress towards mastery.

Mastery of Self-Management for grades 6-8 means students are able to demonstrate both teacher and student-selected health practices, as well as identify barriers to demonstrating these health practices in their own life.
Component 1 of Self-Management: Demonstration of Health Practices

Planning for Grades 6-8 Self-Management
Use the table below to help guide instruction for identifying health practices for your classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Collected:</th>
<th>Health Practices Students Need Based on this Data:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing databases [CDC databases on health surveys, state and local level databases such as Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) and Smart Source, County data, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Public Health data, justice system]</td>
<td>Physical and Personal Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and National Health Education Standards</td>
<td>Example Health Practice: Demonstrate ways to prevent getting sick (e.g. using tissues, covering their mouth when sneezing/coughing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School and district level data (attendance records, discipline data, climate surveys)</td>
<td>Emotional and Social Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research reports (risk and protective factors, intervention effectiveness, current issue briefs, research on adolescent development)</td>
<td>Example Health Practice: Demonstrate ways to effectively communicate feelings and emotions (e.g. using I-Statements from Interpersonal Communication).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media records (news stories, journal articles, newspaper articles)</td>
<td>Prevention and Risk Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversations with School Staff</td>
<td>Example Health Practice: Demonstrate how to wear a seatbelt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversations with Parents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conversations with Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversations with Community Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stages of Health Practice Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Reinforcement</th>
<th>Mastery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Explain the purpose of the skill/strategy and how it will benefit health</td>
<td>• Review steps of the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide students with challenging opportunities to demonstrate the skills/strategy (self-efficacy in using the health practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduce basic knowledge that students need to demonstrate the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide students with opportunities to practice the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide opportunities for self-reflection when using the skill/strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide a step-by-step overview of the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide reinforcement in other school settings/subject areas</td>
<td>• Collect data on student performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Model the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide feedback to students as they demonstrate the skill/strategy</td>
<td>• Provide feedback to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide scenarios and examples for students to analyze</td>
<td>• Reteach for misconceptions or areas of trouble</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Steps:

**Step 1: Identify Personal Responsibilities**

**Step Overview:** Understanding personal responsibility is the first step to Self-Management. In order to develop health practices and strategies, one must understand the areas of their life they are responsible. Students should spend time understanding what a personal responsibility is and how this will change as they get older. Students should also understand that sometimes it can feel like more work, but ultimately, taking responsibility for the actions leads to feeling more in control of their life and health.

**Sub Skill(s):**
- Define responsibility
- Identify responsibilities
- Connect responsibility to different areas of health

**Step 2: Choose a Skill or Strategy**

**Step Overview:** After identifying responsibilities, it is important to pick health practices or strategies that will help fulfill that responsibility. For example, it is a person’s responsibility as they get older to manage their own stress. To do this, they must learn different strategies to regulate their stress. In this step, students should select health practices or strategies that help them with the responsibilities they identified in Step 1. They should then research and learn about those health practices and strategies.

**Sub Skill(s):**
- Define health practice
- Choose a health practice or strategy
- Research a health practice, skill, or strategy
HEALTH SKILL: Self-Management | Grades 6-8

Step 3: Make it a Habit

Step Overview: In order to develop mastery in Self-Management, students must make health practices into healthy habits, which means using the health practice when appropriate and consistently. The word habit is used to describe health behaviors that are used regularly, consistently, and autonomatically. For example, washing hands is a health behavior that should be used everyday, multiple times a day. Wearing a helmet should be automatic when riding a bike, but may not be used everyday. In this step, students should continue rehearsing their health practice and use strategies to create healthy habits. See Goal-Setting for guidance on support students to track their use of health practices and to set goals on developing healthy habits.

Sub Skill(s):
- Identify potential barriers
- Demonstrate the health practice, skill, or strategy
- Use the health practice, skill, or strategy regularly

Step 4: Reflect

Step Overview: Learning to reflect takes practice and intention. Building time for students to reflect in the classroom supports student ability to reflect in their daily lives without teacher guidance. In this step, students will reflect upon their health improvements as a result of learning their health practice. The importance of this step is to provide an opportunity for students to review their learnings and consider how they can continue to implement health actions into their daily lives.

Reflection Question(s):
- How did the health practice or strategy improve my health?
- Do I use this health practice or strategy consistently? Why or why not?
- Are there other health practices or strategies that I could add?
- What barriers did I experience trying to use this health practices or strategy regularly? How did I overcome these barriers?
- Do I need any additional support to take on this responsibility? If so, what support do I need?
Teaching Tips

- Utilize project-based learning strategies to support students in identifying and researching health practices that will improve their health. See the Resource Bank for guidance on facilitating project-based learning in the classroom.
- Incorporate strategies from other health skills as needed to support students. For example, using tracking systems from Goal-Setting helps students use health practices regularly, consistently, and automatically.
- Prompt students to demonstrate health practices in class in order to provide feedback and assess student mastery of health practice.
- Provide opportunities for students to use multiple modes of demonstrating health practices. For example, students can film themselves demonstrating a health practice or draw a comic strip with the steps of the health practice.
- Teach Self-Management for each health topic covered, selecting health practices that align with the content promote health and safety. For example, when learning about nutrition, teach the health practice of reading a food label.

See Teaching Progression for suggested learning activities.