

Well Balanced Beginner Exercise Booklet



Warm-up

Warming up will help protect you from injuries during the activities, and get your muscles ready to work a little harder. If you are unable to do the additional movements, just keep moving around or march in place.



Purpose

The objective is to perform small movements to increase circulation so that you can safely perform the exercises. Begin by marching in place, and then add movements. Perform each activity 2 to 4 times, continuously, for up to 10 minutes.



Suggestions

Pick music that matches the speed of an exercise and will get you ready to move around. Traditional/cultural or popular music when you were younger can bring back memories and make it more fun and enjoyable for you.

March in place

Areas of Focus

butt, hips, shoulders, chest

March in place with small steps while swinging your arms across in front of you (left leg up, right arm forward; right leg up, left arm forward).



March in place while raising your arms

Areas of Focus

butt, hips, arms, shoulders

March in place with small steps while slowly raise your arms to the side until they are over your head.



Toe touches to the front

Areas of Focus

calves, shins, butt, hips, shoulders, chest

Alternate toe touches (left toe, then right toe) to the front with both arms reaching forward as the toe touches the floor.



Heel touches to the front

Areas of Focus

calves, shins, butt, hips, shoulders, chest

Alternate heel touches (left heel, then right heel) to the front with both arms reaching forward as the heel touches the floor.



March in place

Areas of Focus

butt, hips, shoulders, arms

Continue marching in place with alternating arm movement. (Left leg up, right arm up; Right leg up, left arm up)



Toe touches to the right and left sides

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips, shoulders, arms

Right toe touches to the right side with arms swinging in that direction.

Left toe touches to the left side with arms swinging in that direction



Marching in place with higher knees

Areas of Focus

thighs, butt, hips, shoulders, arms

March in place while raising your knees higher than usual.



March in place with rolling shoulders

Areas of Focus
thighs, butt, hips, shoulders

Continue marching
while rolling
shoulders backward.

1



2



3



Seated Balance Activities

Purpose

- To improve your balance while performing functional activities.
- These exercises will strengthen your upper body muscles which will help you to develop a more upright seated posture.
- You will use your vision to improve your seated balance.

Materials

- Chairs without arm rests

Sections

- Steady Sitting
- Steady Sitting with Upper Body & Core Movements
- Steady Sitting with Lower Body Movements
- Steady Sitting with Hip Movements



Steady Sitting

exercise 1

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor.
- Relax your arms and place your hands on your thighs.
- Hold your head up with your eyes focused on something in front of you.
- Pull your stomach muscles up and in – try to flatten your stomach.
- Straighten your upper back and raise your chest while moving your shoulders back and down.
- Hold this position for 15 seconds, breathing normally and relaxing the rest of your body at the same time.
- Repeat the exercise.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest



Steady Sitting

exercise 2

- Sit on a chair with your hands on the chair.
- Place your feet flat on the floor, hip width apart.
- Sit upright, eyes open, looking straight ahead.
- Hold for 30 seconds.
- Close your eyes.
- Hold for 30 seconds.
- Repeat 3 to 5 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest



Steady Sitting with Upper Body & Core Movements

- These exercises improve the strength of the upper body, hip, and lower body muscles as well as increasing flexibility.
- Sit in the center and slightly forward on the chair, with feet shoulder width apart flat on the floor, hands resting on thighs.

Areas of Focus

upper body, hip, and lower body muscles



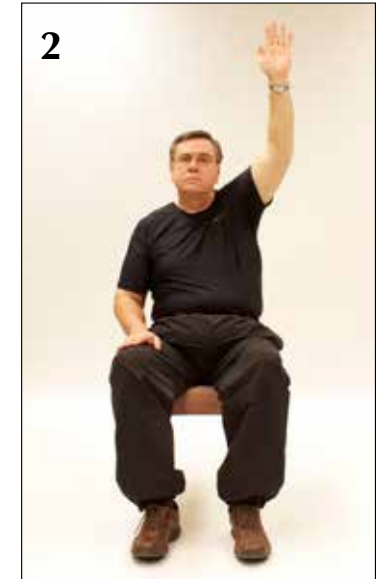
Bear reaching for honey

exercise 1

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Raise your left arm straight up (as far as it can comfortably go).
- Slowly count to 3, and then lower your arm back down.
- Repeat with your right arm.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest, arms



Overhead arm raise

exercise 2

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart, hands on your thighs.
- With your hands facing down, raise both arms to the side until they line up with your shoulders.
- Count to 3 (breathe in).
- Turn your hands up, and raise your arms until your hands touch above your head (breathe out).
- Count to 3 (breathe in), then start to lower your arms.
- When your arms are halfway down, turn your hands down again and continue lowering your arms (breathe out).
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest, arms



Soaring eagle

exercise 3

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart, hands on your thighs.
- Raise your right arm at an angle from the side of your body.
- Count to 3, and then lower your arm.
- Repeat with your left arm.
- Now move both arms: right arm angled up and left arm angled down.
- Switch arms: left arm angled up and right arm angled down.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest, arms



Body twists

exercise 4

- Sit tall, hands on your thighs, feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Without moving your hips, slowly twist your upper body to your left side. Your shoulders and head should move too.
- Try to look over your shoulder at what is behind you.
- Count to 3, and then turn back around.
- Repeat to the right side.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

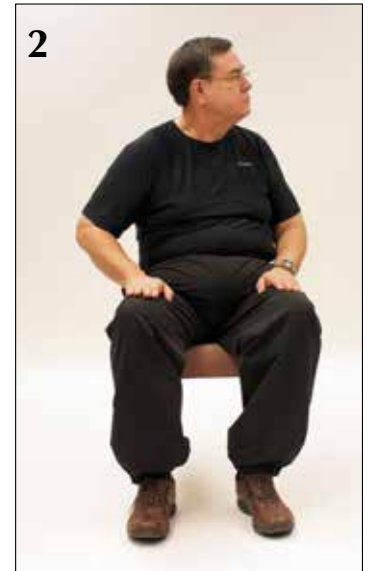
Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, chest, sides, neck

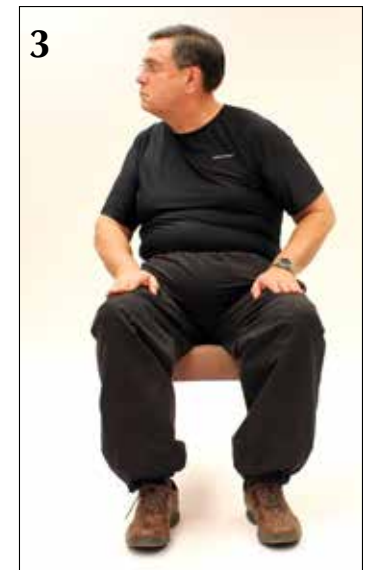
1



2



3



Lean to the front and back *exercise 5*

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- While holding the side of your chair, lean forward from your hips until your nose is above your knees.
- Keep your back, shoulders, and neck relaxed (do not bend neck or shoulders forward).
- Count to 3, and then sit back up.
- While keeping your back and shoulders relaxed, lean backward.
- Count to 3, and then sit back up.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, chest, hips

1



2



3



Angled lean front

exercise 6

- Sit tall, hands on your thighs, feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- With your eyes looking straight ahead, lean forward toward your left foot.
- Remember to keep back, shoulders, and neck relaxed.
- Count to 3, and then sit back up.
- Repeat the movement toward your right foot.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, sides, hips

1



2



3



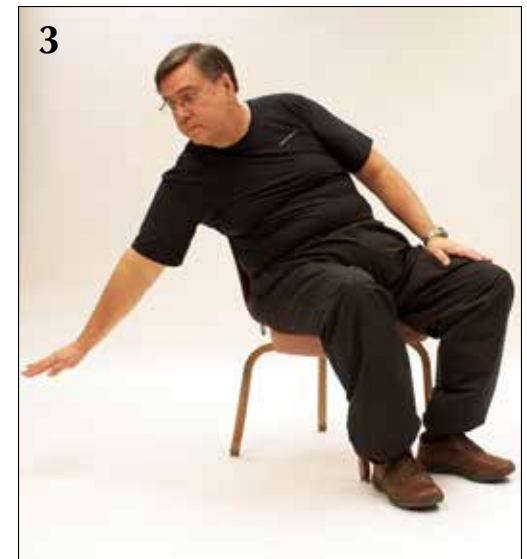
Angled lean back

exercise 7

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- With your eyes looking straight ahead, lean backward toward your left (reaching toward the back of the chair).
- Remember to keep back, shoulders, and neck relaxed.
- Count to 3, and then sit back up.
- Repeat the movement toward your right.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times.

Areas of Focus

stomach, back, shoulders, sides, hips



Steady Sitting with Lower Body Movements

- These exercises strengthen muscles of the stomach, legs, and feet as well as improving flexibility of the hip, knee and ankle.
- These are the areas that you use in maintaining and controlling balance while performing daily tasks.

Areas of Focus

stomach, legs, feet, hips, knees and ankles



Heel lifts

exercise 1

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Lift both of your heels at the same time while keeping your toes on the floor.
- Repeat 10 times.
- Lift one heel after the other (Left, and then Right).
- Repeat 10 times.

Areas of Focus

calves



Toe lifts

exercise 2

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Lift your toes on both feet at the same time while keeping your heels on the floor.
- Repeat 10 times.
- Lift your toes, one foot after the other (Left, and then Right).
- Repeat 10 times.

Areas of Focus

shins, calves



Ankle rolls

exercise 3

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Lift one foot slightly off the floor. (You may need to keep their heel on the floor)
- Roll your left ankle to the left 5 times, then to the right 5 times.
- Roll your right ankle to the right 5 times, then to the left 5 times.

Areas of Focus

calves, shins



Marching

exercise 4

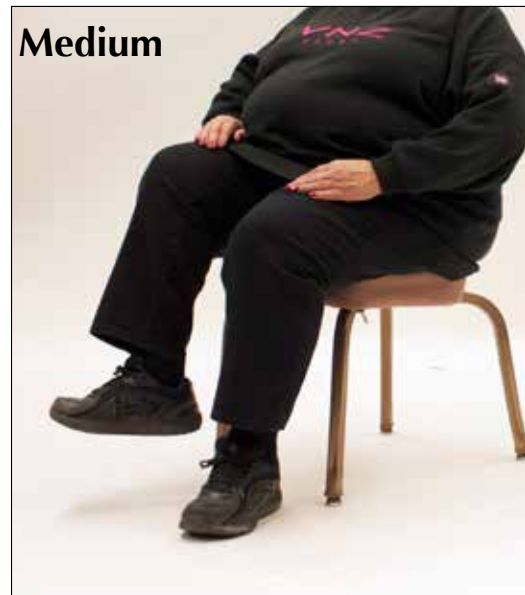
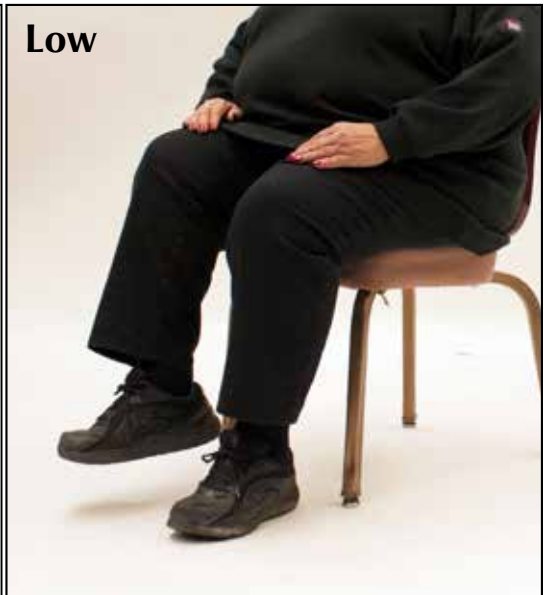
- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart, while keeping your hands on the chair.
- March in place by lifting one knee after the other (Left, and then Right).
- Do this 5 times while sitting tall.
- Repeat the exercise but change the height of each step (Low, medium, high).

Areas of Focus

thighs, butt, hips

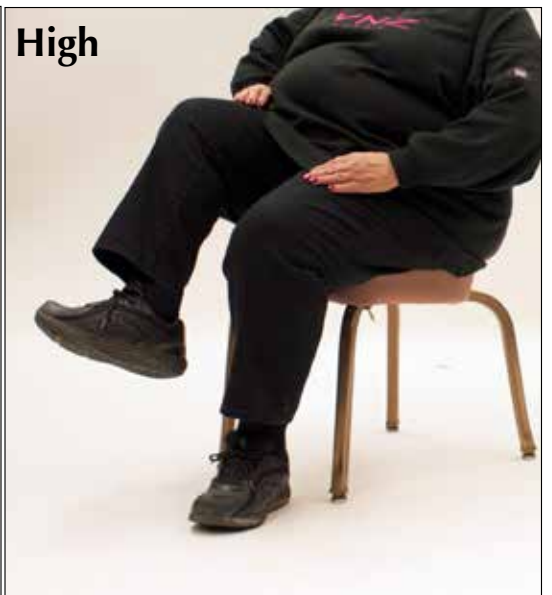


Low



Medium

High



Warm your feet by the fire *exercise 5*

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Stretch your left leg out as straight as possible without locking your knee.
- Count to 3, and then lower your leg back down.
- Repeat with your right leg.
- Perform this exercise 5 times with each leg.

Areas of Focus
thighs, calves



Steady Sitting with Hip Movements

- These activities help your balance, and improve hip movement and flexibility.

Areas of Focus

hips



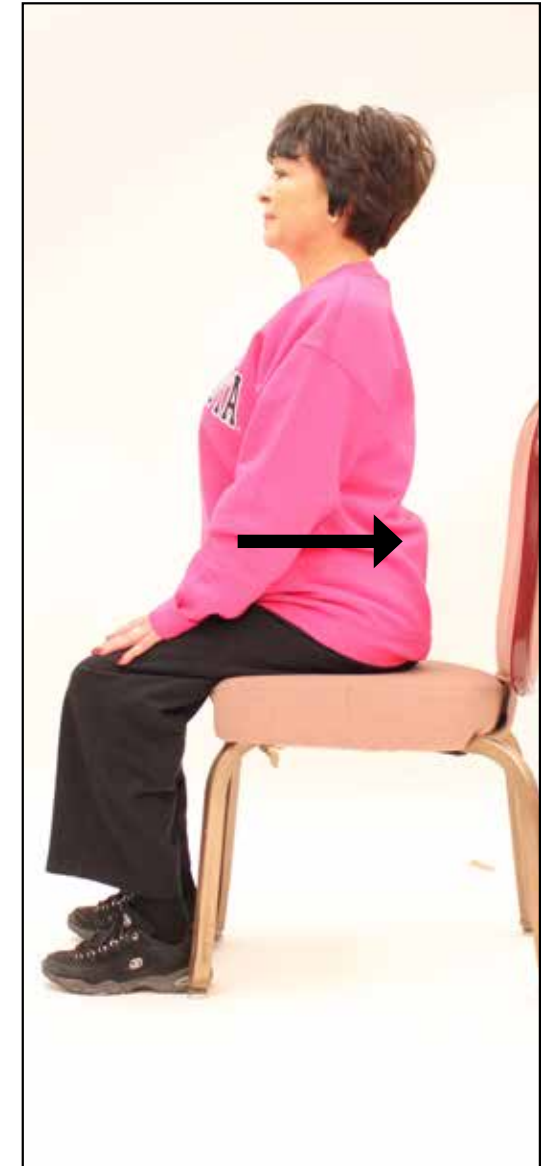
Forward and backward

exercise 1

- Begin by sitting up straight, feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Move your hips forward, hold for 3 counts.
- Return to the starting position.
- Move your hips backward, hold for 3 counts.
- Return to the starting position.
- Repeat the exercise with your eyes closed.
- With your eyes open again, move your hips forward and backward without stopping in the middle.
- Repeat steps 1 through 7.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, stomach, lower back, thighs

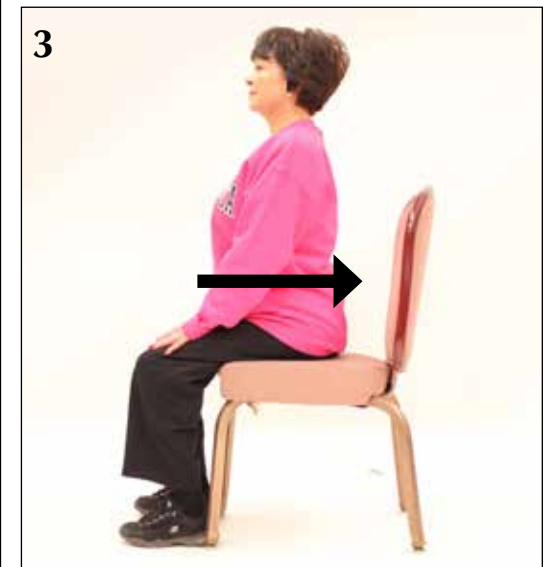


Hip movements to the front *exercise 2*

- Sit tall, feet flat on the floor and shoulder width apart.
- Move your hips forward to the right.
- Hold position 3 to 5 seconds.
- Return to the starting position.
- Move your hips forward to the left.
- Hold position for 3 to 5 seconds.
- Repeat hip movement to the front with your eyes closed.
- Repeat steps 1 through 7.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, stomach, lower back, thighs

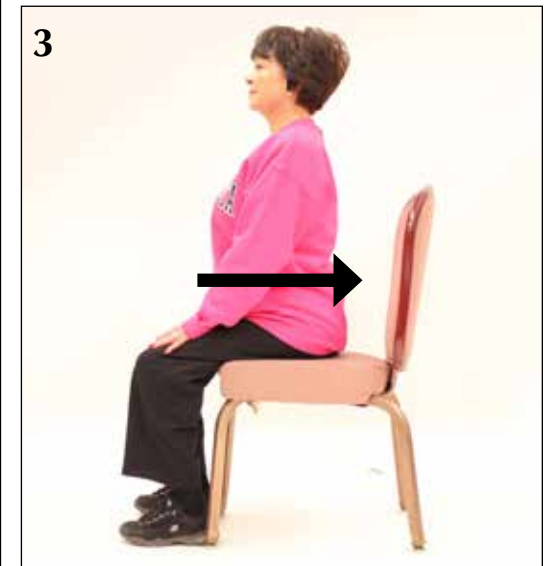


Hip movements to the back *exercise 3*

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and hip width apart.
- Move your hips backward to the right.
- Hold position 3 to 5 seconds.
- Return to the starting position.
- Move your hips backward to the left.
- Hold position for 3 to 5 seconds.
- Repeat hip movement to the back with your eyes closed.
- Repeat steps 1 through 7.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, stomach, lower back, thighs



Front to back hip movements without stopping

exercise 4

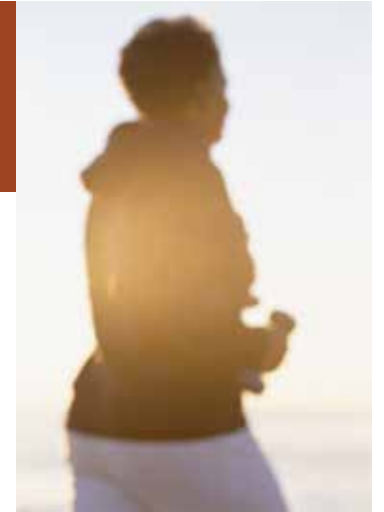
Areas of Focus

hips, butt, stomach, lower back, thighs

- Sit tall with your feet flat on the floor and hip width apart.
- Move your hips forward to the right and then backward to the left; do not stop halfway. (If it helps, picture yourself drawing an “X” with your hip movements.)
- Return to the starting position.
- Move your hips forward to the left and then backward to the right; do not stop halfway.
- Repeat front to back hip movement without stopping, with your eyes closed.
- Repeat steps 1 through 5.



Standing Balance Activities



Purpose

- To improve your balance while performing daily activities.
- These exercises are designed to challenge your standing balance and, with practice, to improve it.

Materials

- Mat
- Chairs for balance if you wish to use them (if you use a walker, you can use that for balance)

Safety

- You may need to perform these exercises with your back about 2 feet from a wall, with a chair in front of you.
- Do not perform the next exercise until you can safely perform the task at hand. For example, do not perform an exercise with your eyes closed if you are not able to do it safely with your eyes open.
- Open your eyes immediately if you feel that you are about to lose your balance.

Checking Your Standing Position

To make sure you are standing correctly, follow these steps:

- Stand with your back against the wall with a chair (or walker) in front of you, feet flat on the floor with your heels about 6 inches from the wall.
- Relax your arms and let them hang by your sides.
- Hold your head up, look straight ahead, and focus on an object in front of you.
- Gently move your head straight back until your ears are above your shoulders.
Imagine that the top of your head is being pulled toward the ceiling by a string (imagine you are a puppet on a string).
- Stand tall.
(Make sure your upper back is straight and your chest is slightly lifted)
- Pull your stomach muscles in and up so that your stomach flattens.
(Your lower back should have a slight curve to the front, your hips should be level, your kneecaps should be facing forward, and your ankles and feet should be straight)
- Your body weight should be equal on each foot.
- Looking straight ahead with your eyes focused on an object ahead of you, breath normally, and hold this standing position for 15 seconds.
- Now, still breathing normally, close your eyes, hold this standing position, and try to focus on the feeling of standing correctly.

Standing Balance with Different Foot Positions

- These exercises teach you how to keep your body steady when your feet are in different positions.
- They will make everyday activities such as walking, stepping into and out of the bathtub, and standing in crowded spaces easier.
- Stand near a wall or chair to steady yourself when needed.

Safety If you are unable to stand with your feet together (side by side or heel to toe), start with your feet hip distance apart.



Changing foot position

exercise 1

- Stand with your feet hip distance apart. Hold the position for 15 seconds.
- Stand with feet slightly apart, left foot in front of the right foot. Hold the position for 15 seconds.
- Switch feet, so the right foot is slightly in front of the left foot. Hold the position for 15 seconds.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, thighs, back of thighs



Changing foot position with actions

exercise 2

- Stand with your feet hip distance apart. Count or sing as you hold the position for 15 seconds.
- Stand with feet slightly apart, left foot in front of the right foot. Count or sing as you hold the position for 15 seconds.
- Switch feet, so the right foot is slightly in front of the left foot. Count or sing as you hold the position for 15 seconds.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, thighs, back of thighs



Changing foot position while reaching

exercise 3

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, thighs, back of thighs, shoulders, arms

- Stand with your feet hip distance apart.
- Reach upward like you are trying to grab an object, alternating arms (left, and then right).
- Continue reaching, changing the height of the object you are grabbing for (3 or 4 times each arm).
- Stand with feet slightly apart, left foot in front of the right foot.
- Reach upward like you are trying to grab an object, alternating arms (left, and then right).
- Continue reaching, changing the height of the object you are grabbing for (3 or 4 times each arm).
- Switch feet, so the right foot is slightly in front of the left foot.
- Reach upward like you are trying to grab an object, alternating arms (right, and then left).
- Continue reaching, changing the height of the object you are grabbing for (3 or 4 times each arm).

Changing foot position while reaching

exercise 3 (continued)

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, thighs, back of thighs, shoulders, arms



Marching with head movements

- These marching exercises will help improve balance during daily activities that require turning your head as you walk.
- For example, looking for cars as you cross the road or to replying to a friend's greeting.

Areas of Focus

butt, hips, shoulders, arms



Marching in place

exercise 1

- Stand tall, look straight ahead.
- March in place by lifting one knee after the other – left leg up, right arm up—right leg up, left arm up. (Knees should move straight up, and straight down)
- Continue marching for 30 seconds.

Areas of Focus

hips, butt, thighs, back of thighs



Marching in place with head turns

exercise 2

- Stand tall, look straight ahead.
- March in place for 8 counts.
- March in place for 8 counts while turning your head to the right.
- March in place for 8 counts while turning your head back to the front.
- March in place for 8 counts while you turn your head to the left.
- March in place for 8 counts while turning your head back to the front.

Areas of Focus

butt, hips, shoulders, arms, neck



Weight Changes while Standing

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips, calves

- The Rocking Steps are slow movements.
- The Four Corner uses full steps – both feet move to a new position.



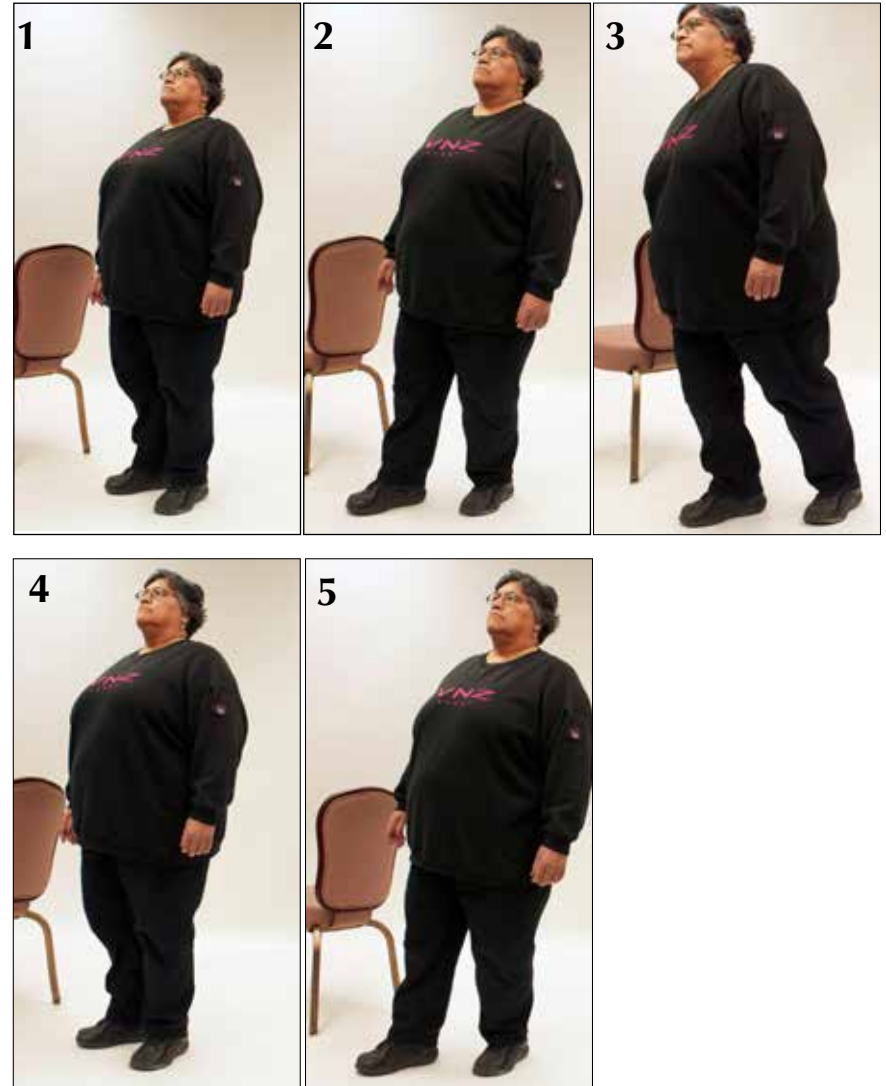
Forward right and left rocking steps

exercise 1

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips, calves

- Stand tall, looking straight ahead, feet shoulder width apart.
- Move your body weight to your left leg.
- Step forward with your right foot. (Your right knee should be bent as your foot meets the floor.)
- Move your body weight to the right leg and hold for 3 counts.
- Move your body weight back to your left leg.
- Step your right leg back to your starting position.
- Repeat this forward step with your right foot 5 times.
- Move your body weight to your right leg and repeat the exercise with your left foot 5 times.



Four corner stepping

exercise 2

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips

- Stand tall, eyes looking forward, feet shoulder width apart.
- Take one small step forward with your right foot.
- Take one small step sideways to your right with your right foot.
- Take one small step backward with your right foot.
- Take one small step to your left with your left foot.
- You have stepped out the four corners of a box.
- Repeat in the opposite direction starting with your left foot.
- Repeat 2 to 4 times in each direction.



Four corner stepping

exercise 2 (continued)



Weight Changes while Stepping

Areas of Focus
calves, thighs, butt, hips

- You will need a mat.
- The height of the mat (approximately 1/8 inches).



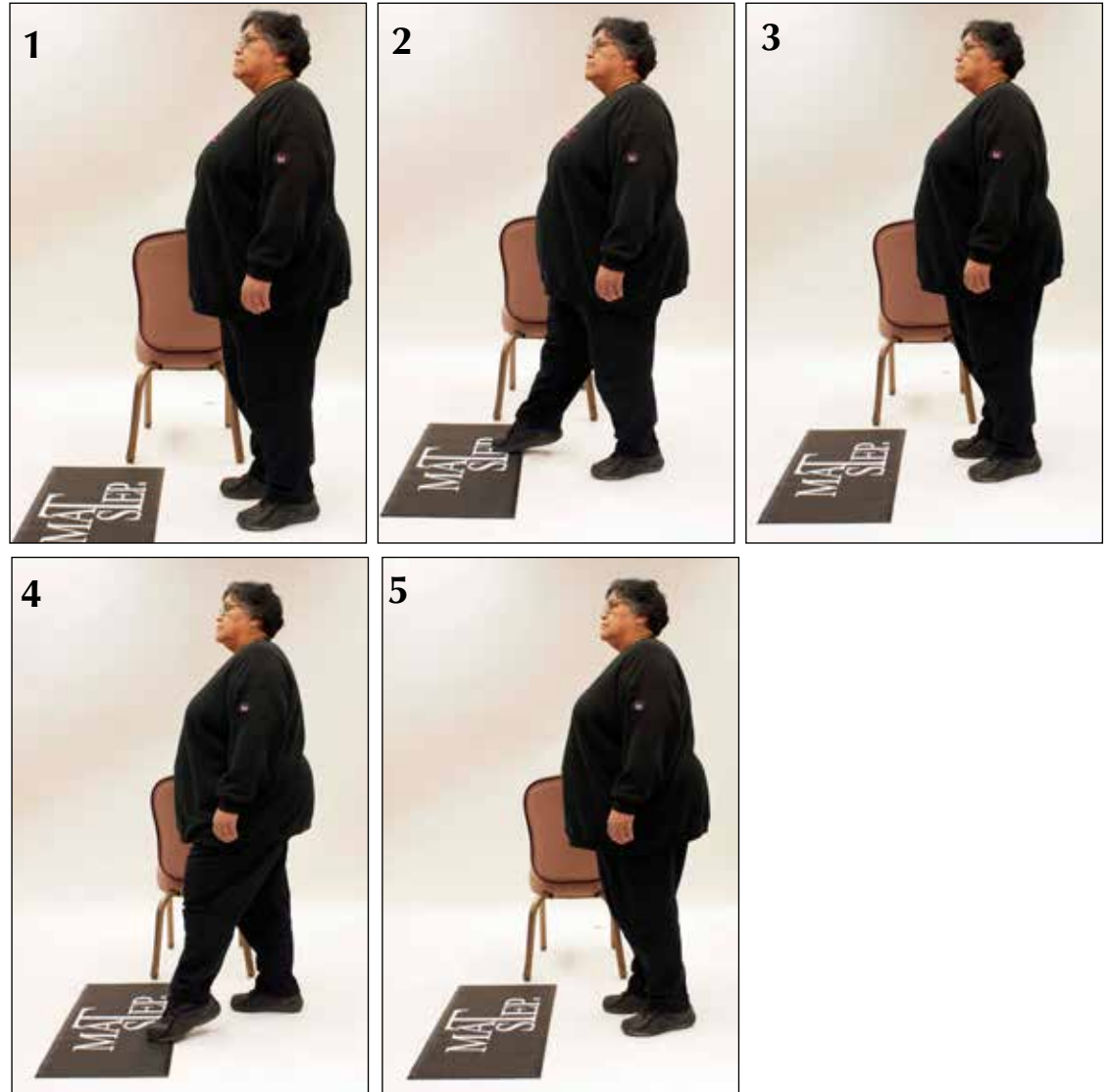
Toe touches

exercise 1

- Stand tall, facing your mat, feet shoulder width apart, toes about 4 inches from the mat.
- Touch the mat with the toe of your right shoe.
- Return to the starting position.
- Touch the mat with the toe of your left shoe.
- Return to the starting position.
- Repeat 5 times.

Areas of Focus

calves, thighs, butt, hips



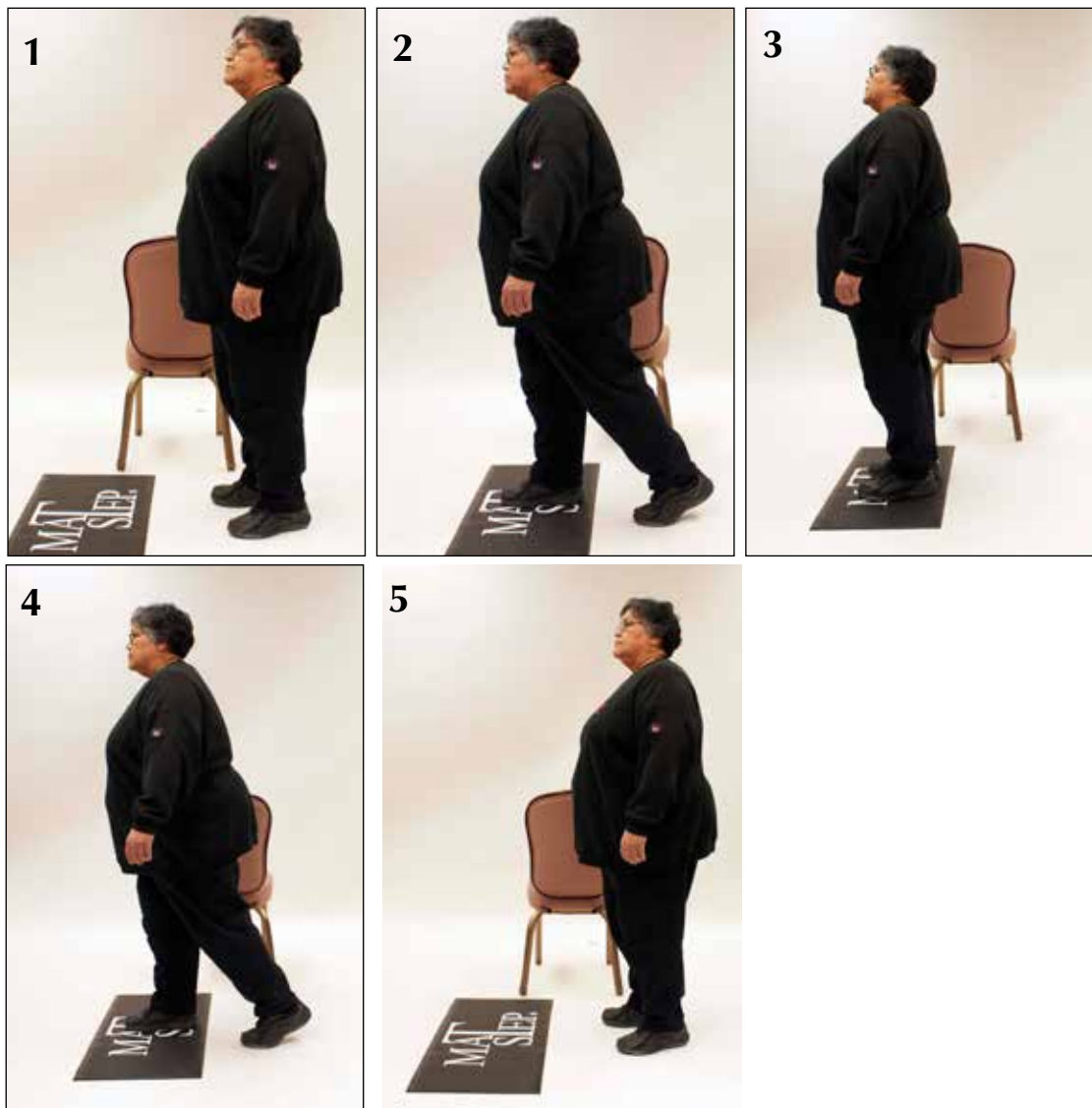
Forward step up

exercise 2

- Stand tall, facing your mat, feet shoulder width apart, toes about 4 inches from mat.
- Step forward onto the edge of the mat with your right foot (your right heel will be slightly off the edge).
- Transfer your weight to your right foot as you move your left foot onto the edge of the mat (both heels are just off the edge of the mat).
- Hold for 2 to 5 seconds.
- Return to the starting position.
- Repeat with the left foot.
- Repeat the exercise 5 times.

Areas of Focus

thighs, butt, hips



Backward toe touches

exercise 3

- Stand tall, your mat behind you, feet shoulder width apart, heels close to the mat.
- Shift your weight to your left foot.
- Touch the top of the mat with the toe of your right shoe.
- Return to your starting position.
- Shift your weight to your right foot.
- Touch the top of the mat with the toe of your left shoe.
- Return to your starting position.
- Repeat 5 times with each foot.

Areas of Focus

calves, thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips



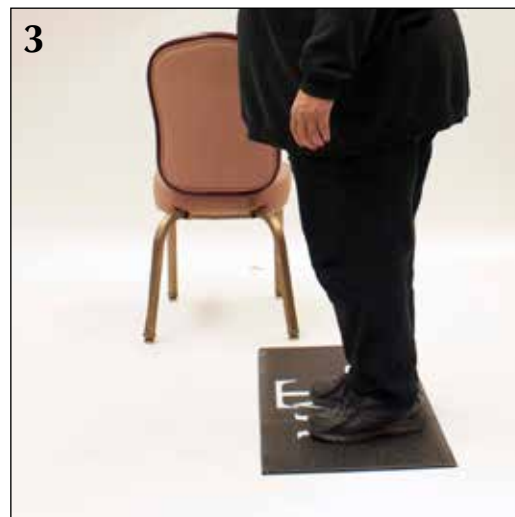
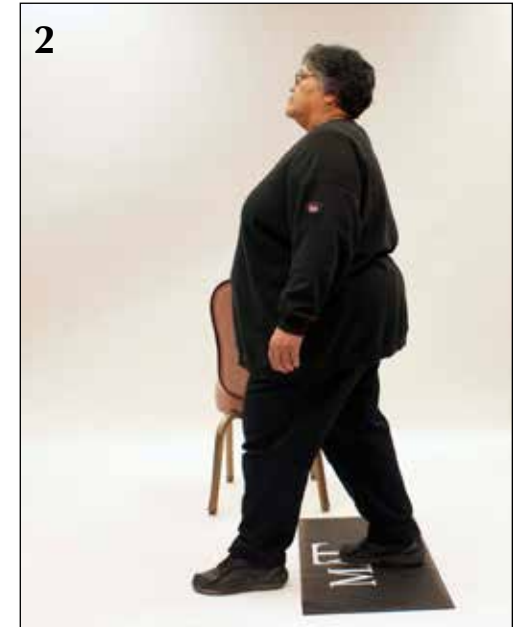
Backward step up

exercise 4

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips, calves

- Stand tall, your mat behind you, feet shoulder width apart, heels close to the mat.
- Shift your weight to your left foot.
- Step backward onto the mat with your right foot.
- Shift your weight to your right foot and step backward onto the mat with your left foot (you are standing on the mat).
- Slowly raise your heels.
- Hold for 2 to 5 seconds.
- Return to your starting position.
- Repeat with your other foot (step back with your left foot).
- Repeat 5 times each foot.



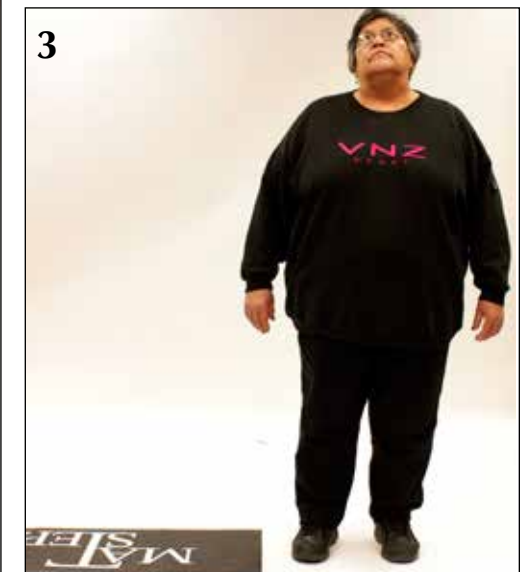
Side toe touches (Taps)

exercise 5

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips, calves

- Stand tall, your mat on your right, feet shoulder width apart, foot 2 – 3 inches from the mat.
- Shift your weight to your left foot.
- Touch the center of the mat with the toe of your right shoe.
- Return to your starting position.
- Repeat 5 times.
- Move the mat to your left side.
- Repeat the exercise 5 times with your left foot.



Side step raises

exercise 6

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips

- Stand tall, your mat on your right, feet shoulder width apart, foot 2 to 3 inches from mat.
- Shift your weight to your left foot.
- Step up onto your mat with your right foot.
- Shift your weight to your right foot.
- Lift your left foot off the floor.
- Hold for 3 seconds.
- Set your left foot on the floor.
- Step back down to your beginning position.
- Repeat 5 times on each side.



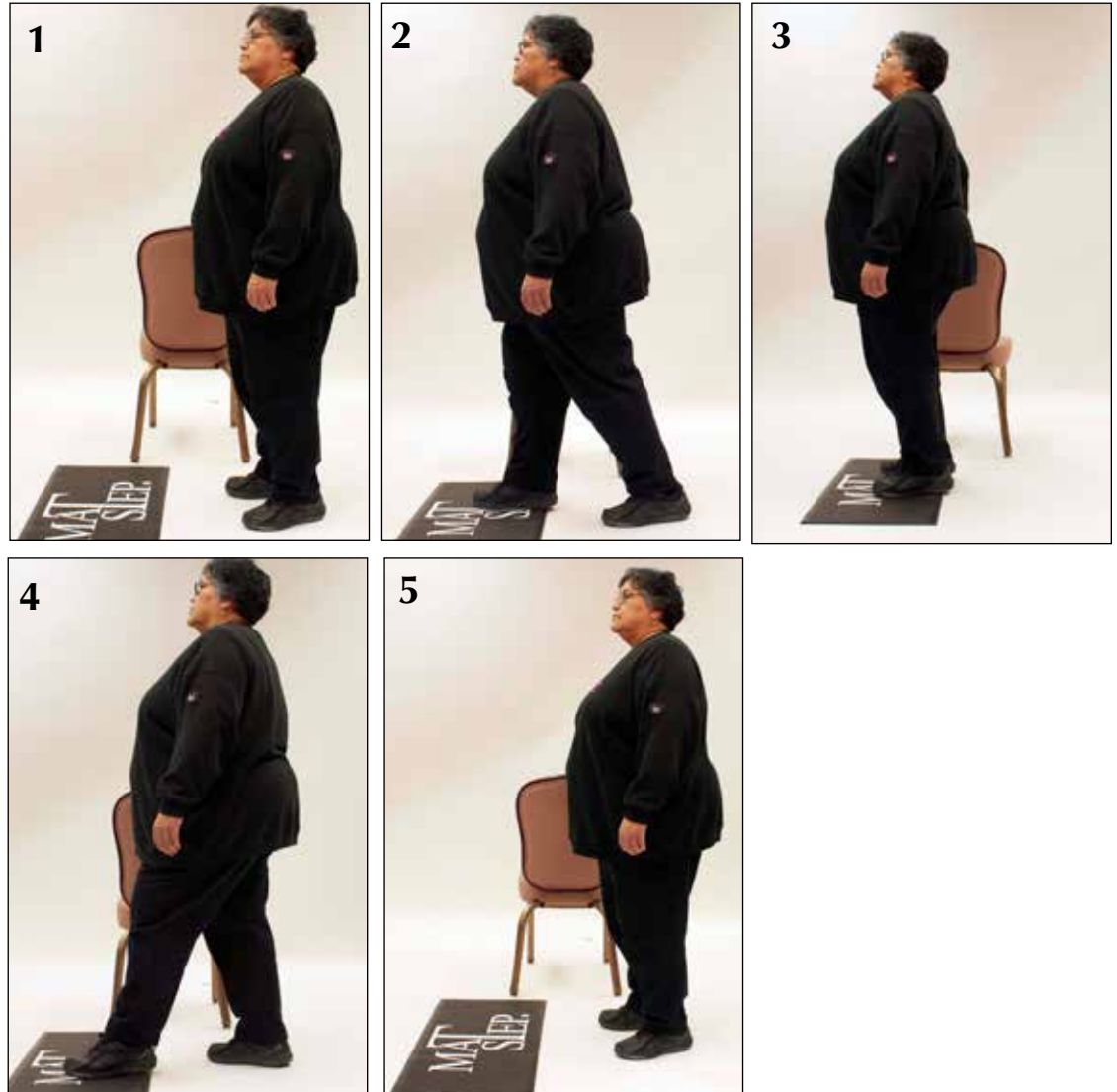
Forward step-up/step-down

exercise 7

- Stand tall, facing your mat, feet shoulder width apart, toes about 4 inches from mat.
- Step forward onto the mat – right foot first.
- Step backward down from mat – right foot first.
- Repeat with your left foot stepping up first.
- Repeat 5 times each foot.

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips



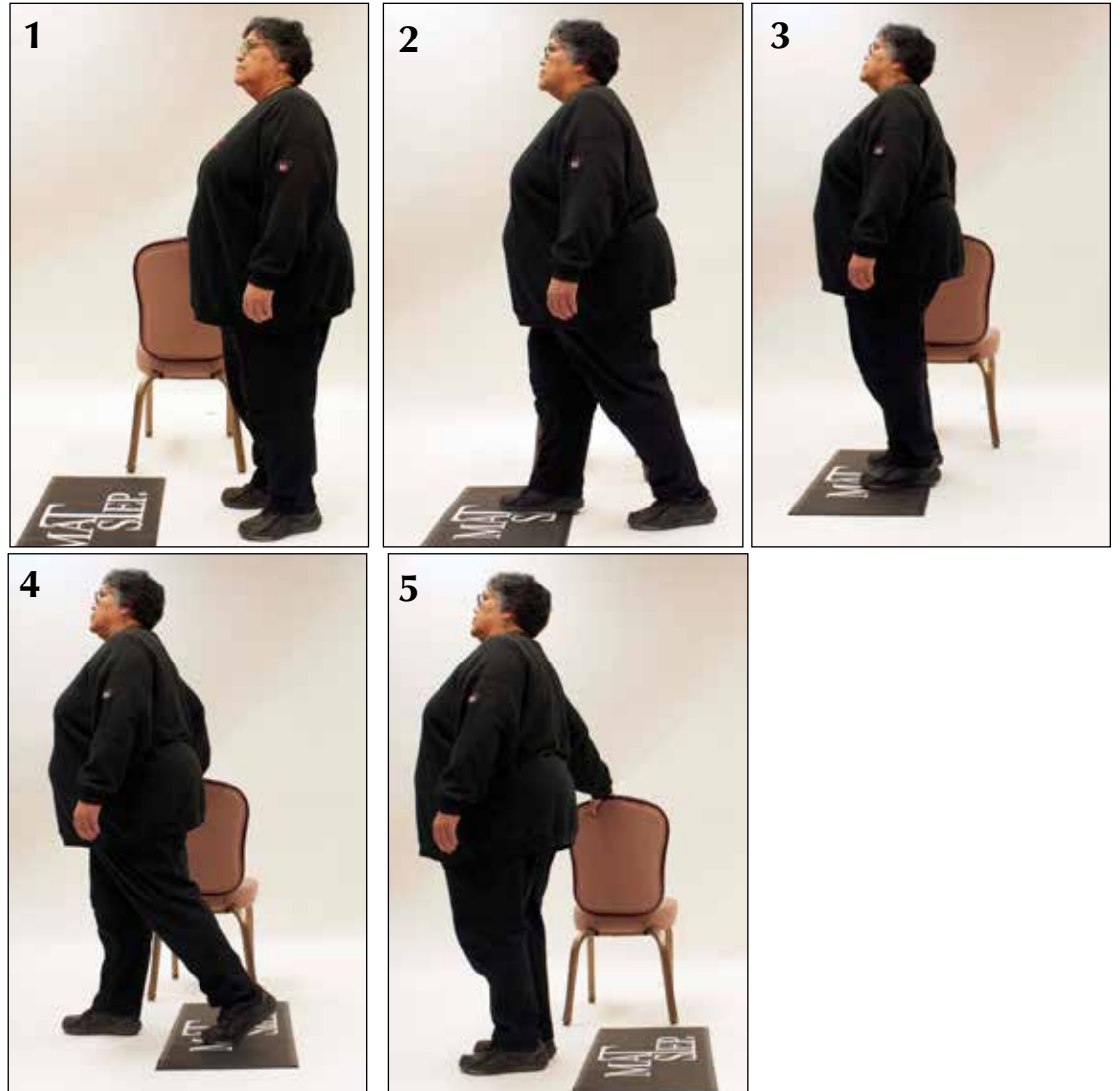
Forward step-up/step-down, changing sides

exercise 8

- Stand tall, facing your mat, legs shoulder width apart, toes about 4 inches from the mat.
- Step forward onto the mat - right foot first.
- Step forward and down from the mat.
- Turn around and face the mat.
- Repeat by starting with your left foot.
- Repeat 5 times each foot.

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips



Forward swing-through steps *exercise 9*

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips

- Stand tall, facing your mat, legs shoulder width apart, toes about 4 inches from the mat.
- Step forward onto the mat with your right foot (only one foot should touch the mat).
- Lift your left foot up and over the mat (if you need to touch the mat on the way that is alright.)
- Place it on the floor on the other side of your mat.
- Bring your right foot down beside the left (your mat is behind you).
- Turn around and repeat, this time starting with your left foot.
- Repeat 5 times each foot.



Side Step-Up/Step-Downs, Same Side

exercise 10

Areas of Focus

thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips

- Stand tall, mat on your right, legs shoulder width apart, foot 2 to 3 inches from mat.
- Step sideways to your right up onto the mat (right foot first).
- You are standing on the mat.
- Step sideways to your left back onto the floor (your starting position).
- Repeat 5 times.
- Move to the other side of your mat (mat is on your left).
- Repeat the exercise 5 times, stepping sideways to your left.



Side Step-Up/Step-Downs, Opposite Side (across) *exercise 11*

Areas of Focus
thighs, back of thighs, butt, hips

- Stand tall, mat on your right, feet shoulder width apart, foot 2 to 3 inches from mat.
- Step sideways to your right up onto the mat (standing on the mat).
- Step sideways to your right, off the other side of the mat.
- Repeat 5 times.
- Move the mat to your left side.
- Repeat the exercise 5 times.



Walking Balance Activities

Purpose

- To improve your balance while performing daily activities.

Materials

- Masking tape
- Music and player (optional)



Walking with Small Steps

exercise 1

- Start at one end of the room, approximately 20 to 30 feet distance.
- Walk forward, taking very small steps, looking down at your feet.
- About half way across look up and continue.
- Repeat, back and forth, 2 times.

Areas of Focus

thighs, butt, hips, calves



Walking with Long Steps

exercise 2

Areas of Focus

thighs, butt, hips, calves

- Start at one end of the room.
- Walk forward, taking long steps, looking down at your feet.
- About half way across look up and continue.
- Repeat, back and forth, 2 times.



Walking with Long Steps & Stopping with Feet Together *exercise 3*

Areas of Focus
thighs, butt, hips, calves

- Start at one end of the room.
- Looking down at your feet, take a long step forward, and then stop with feet together.
- About half way across – look up and continue.
- Repeat, back and forth, 2 times.



Walking on Your Heels

exercise 4

Areas of Focus

calves, shins, butt, thighs, hips

- Start at one end of the room.
- Looking down at your feet, walk forward on your toes (heels raised).
- About half way across – look up and continue.
- Repeat, back and forth, 2 times.



Walking on Your Toes

exercise 5

Areas of Focus

calves, shins, butt, thighs, hips

- Start at one end of the room.
- Looking down at your feet, walk forward on your heels (toes raised).
- About half way across – look up and continue.
- Repeat, back and forth, 2 times.



Grass Dance (Side-Stepping) *exercise 6*

Areas of Focus

calves, shins, butt, thighs, hips

- You will be moving sideways.
- Move toward your right by crossing your left foot behind your right foot.
- Repeat (left foot behind right foot) until you have gone all the way to the end of the room.
- Now move toward your left by crossing your right foot behind your left foot.
- Repeat (right foot behind left foot) until you have gone all the way to the end of the room.



Creek Crossing

Goal Try to cross the “creek,” as many times as possible without getting your feet wet (feet touching the floor in the space between the two lines).

Set-up

With masking tape create several “creeks” on the floor. For each creek:

- Lay a piece of masking tape on the floor (about 5 to 6 feet in length).
- Lay another piece of tape the same length, next to the first piece, with a space between that gradually gets wider (starting about 6 inches apart and ending about 18 inches apart).
- Repeat till you have a “creek” for every 2 or 3 elders.

The area between the two lines is the “creek” and the areas outside the two lines are the “creek banks.”

- If you have problems completing any of these exercises – don’t move on to the next.
- Do not go past your comfort level!

Creek Crossing

Areas of Focus

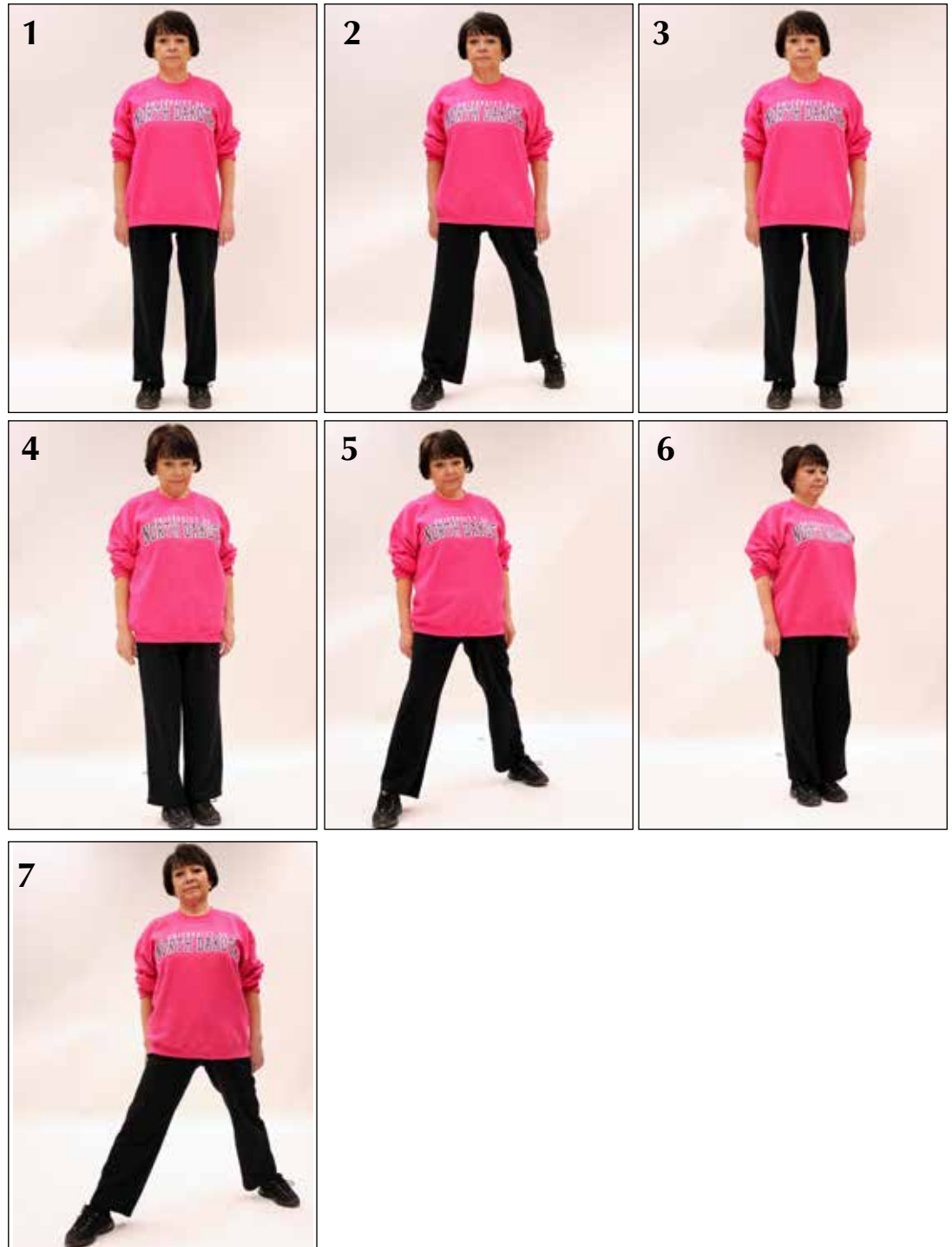
calves, shins, butt, thighs, hips

- Start at the narrow end of the creek by standing on one side.
- Step forward across the creek and turn.
- Step back to the starting side.
- Continue making your way down the creek, stepping back and forth; until you get your feet wet (step inside the two lines).
- Return to the starting point (narrow end).



Creek Crossing *(continued)*

- Start at the narrow end of the creek on the left side of the bank.
- This time, step your right foot across the creek (only touching the right foot on the opposite side).
- Return the right foot back to your starting point without getting wet (move the right foot – the left foot stays on the bank).
- Continue along the left side of the bank and go until you make your way down the river (reach the wide end).
- Return to the starting point.
- Repeat on the right side of the bank with your left foot stepping across until you make your way down the river.



Flexibility

Stretching exercises make it easier for you to do things you need to do and things you like to do. Think of getting into and out of a car; reaching up to the top shelf of the cabinet; bending down to pick up something from the floor; going up and down steps – regular stretching makes all of these things easier.



Safety

- Stretching should never cause pain. A mild pulling feeling is normal. If you feel pain, reduce the stretch.
- Make slow, steady movements. Never “bounce” or stretch quickly.
- Avoid “locking” your joints (knees and elbows). There should always be a small bend in your joints while stretching.
- Hold the stretch for 5 to 10 seconds. Relax. Then repeat, trying to stretch farther.

Seated Chin-To-Chest

Areas of Focus

back of neck

- Sit tall in a chair.
- Keep your shoulders relaxed.
- 3. Looking straight ahead - breathe in.
- As you breathe out, slowly drop your chin toward your chest.
- Hold the position for 5 to 10 seconds breathing normally.
- Inhale and slowly raise the head back to the starting position.
- Repeat and try to stretch further.

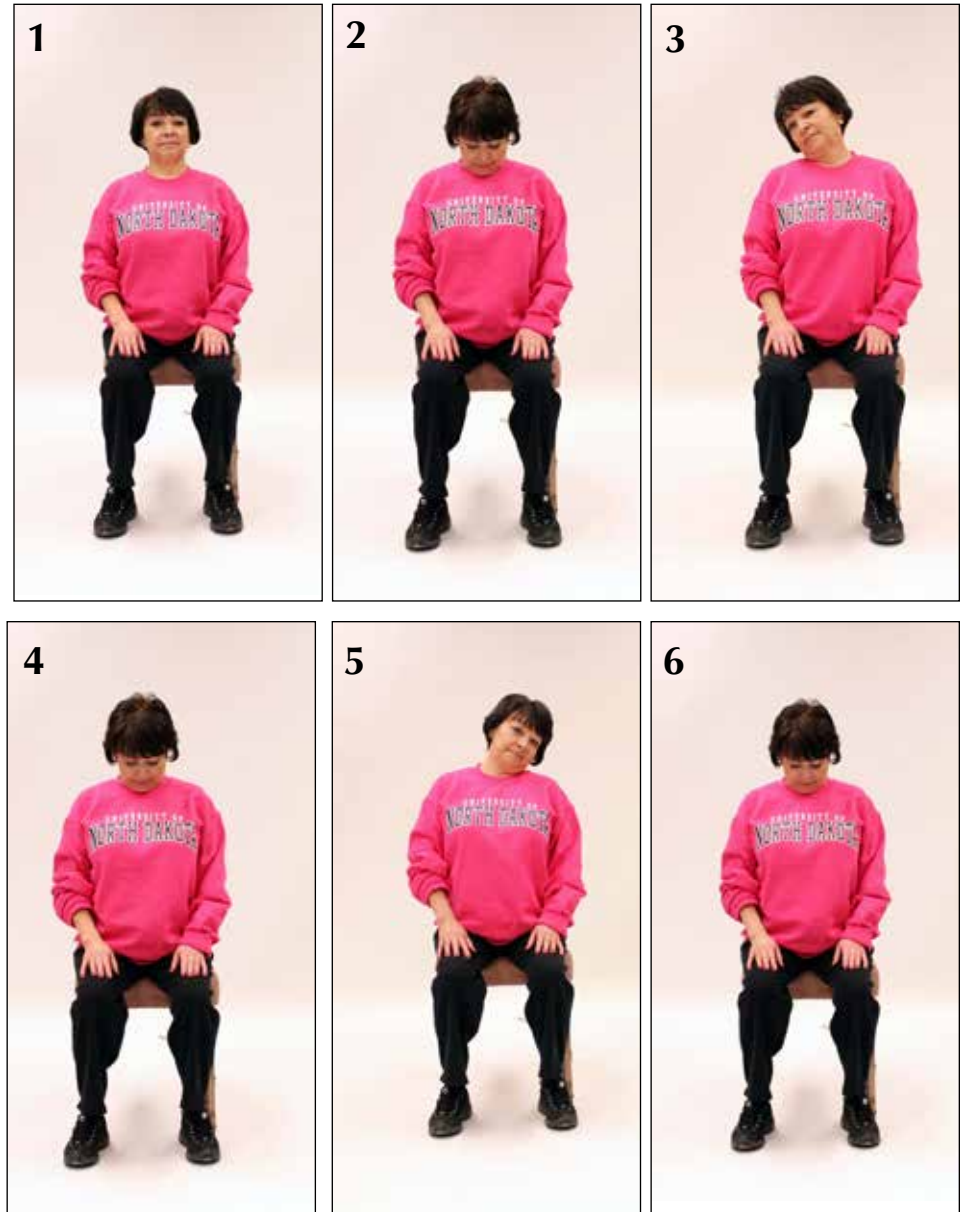


Neck Rolls

Areas of Focus

back and sides of neck

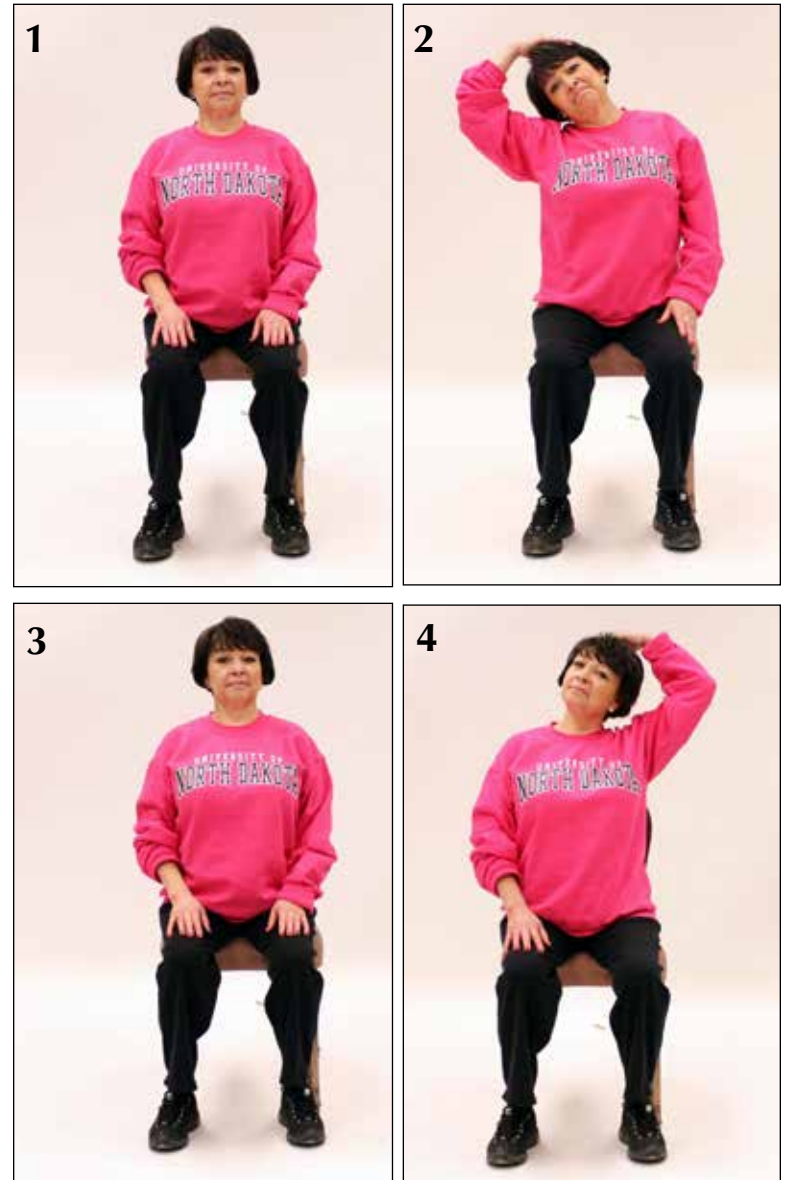
- Sit tall in a chair.
- Keep your shoulders relaxed during the exercise.
- Looking straight ahead - breathe in.
- As you breathe out, drop your head forward (move your chin toward your chest) - breathe in.
- As you breathe out, slowly roll your head toward your right shoulder - breathe in.
- While breathing out, slowly roll your head forward again – breathe in.
- As you breathe out, slowly roll your head toward your left shoulder - breathe in.
- While breathing out, slowly roll your head forward.
- Repeat the exercise 3 to 5 times.



Neck Stretch

- Sit tall in a chair or balance ball with stand.
- Keep your shoulders relaxed, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Slowly tilt your head toward your right shoulder.
- Reach your right hand up and over your head, and rest it on the other side of your head.
- Hold this position for 5 to 10 seconds - continue to breathe normally.
- Bring your head back up.
- Slowly tilt your head toward your left shoulder.
- Reach your left hand up and over your head, and rest it on the other side of your head.
- Hold this position for 5 to 10 seconds - continue breathing normally.
- Bring your head back up.
- Repeat 3 times to each side.

Areas of Focus sides of neck



Shoulder Rolls

Areas of Focus

shoulders, upper back, chest

- Begin in seated or standing position.
- As you breathe in move your shoulders up toward your ears.
- Roll your shoulders backward.
- As you breathe out move your shoulders down.
- Repeat this exercise 5 times.
- Repeat another 5 times rolling the shoulders forward.

1



2



3



4

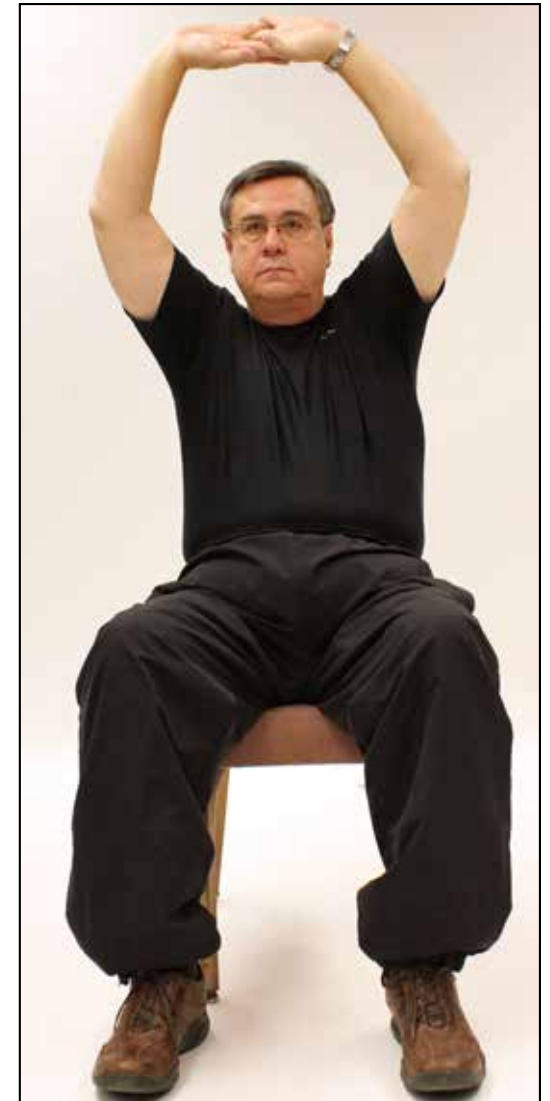


Overhead Stretch

Areas of Focus

shoulders, upper back, arms

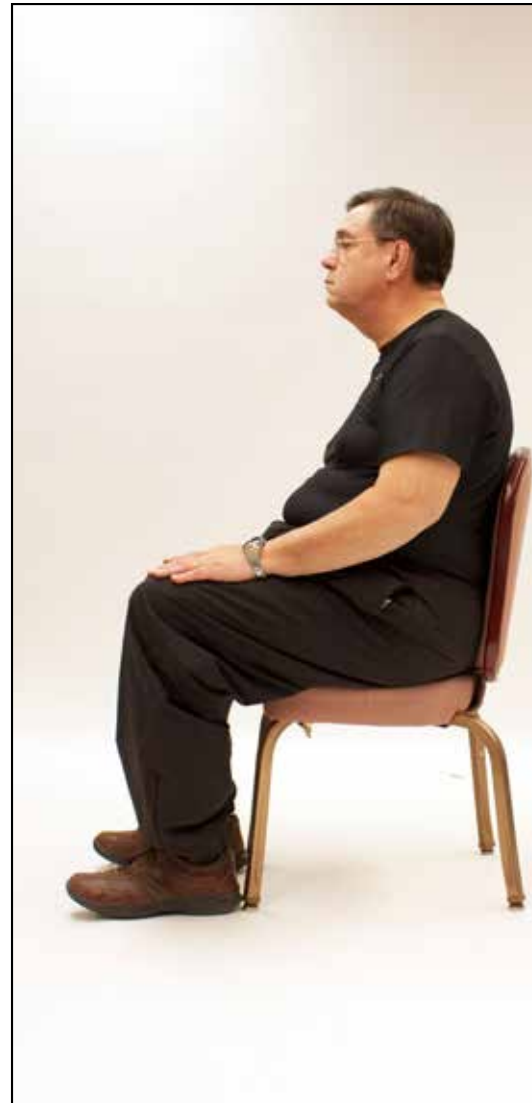
- Begin in seated or standing position.
- Sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Raise your arms straight up over your head.
- Touch your hands together, if possible.
- Remember sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- You should feel a stretch in your shoulders.
- Relax and bring your arms down.
- Repeat and try to stretch further.



Chest Stretch

Areas of Focus
chest, arms, back

- Begin in seated or standing position.
- Sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Keep your elbows straight and reach your arms behind you.
- Interlock your fingers, if possible.
- Gently lift your elbows up.
- You should feel a stretch across your chest.
- Relax and bring your arms back down to your sides.
- Repeat and try to stretch further.



Mid Back Stretch

Areas of Focus
shoulders, arms

- Begin in seated or standing position.
- Sit or stand tall, looking straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Straighten your arms out in front of you.
- Interlock your fingers, if possible, and gently push forward.
- You should feel a stretch between your shoulders.
- Relax and bring arms back down to your sides.
- Repeat and try to stretch further.

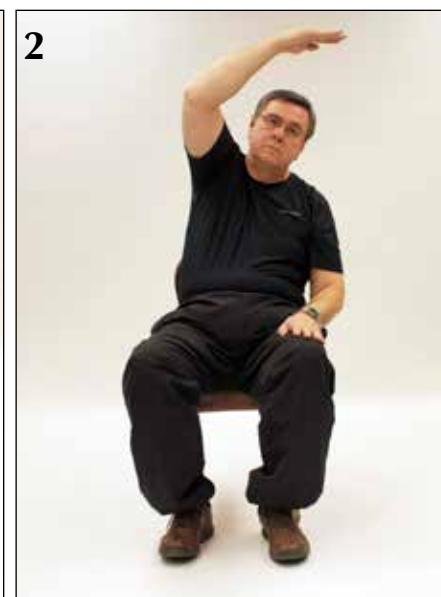


Side Bends

Areas of Focus

sides, arms

- Begin in seated or standing position.
- Stand or sit tall, looking straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Raise right arm up and gently lean to the left.
- You should feel a stretch along your right side.
- Relax arms and stand / sit tall.
- Raise left arm up and gently lean to the right.
- You should feel a stretch along your left side.
- Relax arms and stand / sit tall.
- Repeat both sides, trying to stretch further.

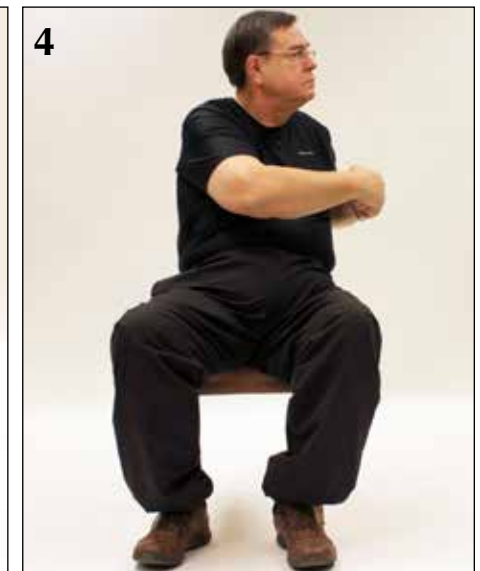
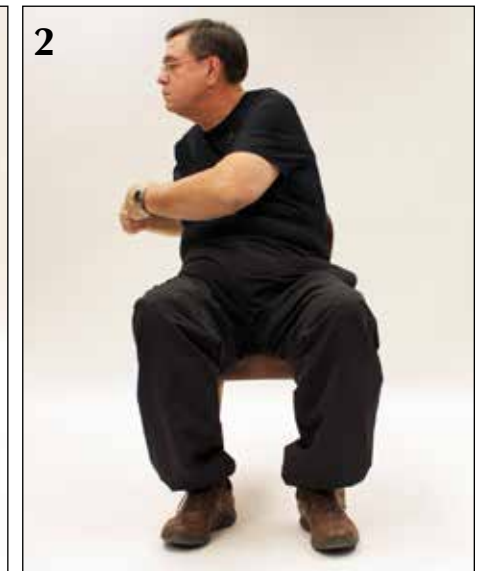


Upper Body Twist

Areas of Focus

sides, back, shoulders, stomach

- Begin by sitting on a chair or exercise ball with stand.
- Sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Gently twist your body and shoulders to the right – use your arms to help twist.
- You should feel a stretch in your upper body.
- Relax and sit tall, look straight ahead.
- Gently twist your body and shoulders to the left - use your arms to help twist.
- You should feel a stretch in your upper body.
- Relax and sit tall.
- Repeat both sides, trying to stretch further.



Leg Stretch

- Sit in a chair or on an exercise ball with stand.
- Sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Straighten your right leg in front of you - heel on the floor and toes raised.
- Gently lean forward and reach your right hand toward your raised toes.
- Relax and sit tall.
- Straighten your left leg in front of you - heel on the floor and toes raised.
- Gently lean forward and reach your left hand toward your raised toes.
- You should feel a stretch in the back of your leg.

Do not do this if it causes leg pain!

Areas of Focus back of Leg



Ankle Circles

Areas of Focus
ankle, foot

- Begin by sitting in a chair (or sitting on an exercise ball with stand).
- Sit tall, look straight ahead, and breathe normally.
- Raise right leg, straighten your knee.
- Slowly, use your ankle to draw a circle.
- Making your circle larger each time, repeat this 5 times in one direction and 5 times in the other direction.
- Lower your leg to the floor.
- Repeat this exercise with your left leg.
- Repeat 3 times with each leg.



Calf Stretch

Areas of Focus

lower leg

- Stand facing a wall or chair.
- Place both hands on the wall/ chair in front of you.
- Your feet should be 12 to 15 inches from the wall and shoulder width apart.
- Keeping your right leg straight and your right foot flat on the floor.
- Step forward with your left foot and bend your left knee.
- Lean forward, weight on your hands, while you continue to bend your left knee.
- You should feel the stretch behind your right ankle and calf.
- Repeat with the other leg.



Endurance

- If you haven't been active for a long time, start out slowly and work your way up to a higher level. (Walk slowly for 1 or 2 minutes to begin.)
- Walk for 5 to 10 minutes (indoors, outdoors, around the classroom, gym, etc.)
- Over time, your goal is to reach a point where you can increase your heart rate. (4-7 safe green zone on RPE chart.)
- Once you reach your goal, you can split your exercise into sessions of **no less than 10 minutes at a time**, which will total 30 minutes or more throughout the day.
- You will receive the greatest benefit from doing at least **30 minutes of endurance exercise on most or all days of the week**. More often is better, and every day is best.

Safety

- These activities should not cause dizziness or chest pain. You should be breathing hard, but still able to talk comfortably.
- You should have a water bottle with you. Take a drink before you begin activities and stop for another drink as you exercise. By the time you notice you are thirsty, you may already be low on fluid.
- If your doctor has asked you to limit your fluids, be sure to check with him or her before increasing the amount of fluid you drink while exercising (Congestive heart failure and kidney disease are chronic diseases that often require fluid limits).

Transition to the Day

Relaxation Exercise

- Begin by sitting on a chair with your back resting against the back of the chair.
- Sit tall, both feet on the floor, and breathe normally.
- Place your hands on your stomach.
- As you breathe in and out feel how your stomach moves in and out.
- Take a breath, letting your stomach get bigger while you breathe in.
- Let your stomach relax as you breathe out.
- Continue to breathe normally with your hands on your stomach for 1 or 2 minutes.
- Then, take some very slow, deep breaths:
Count as you breathe in: --1 -2 -3
Count as you breathe out: - 1 - 2 - 3
- Repeat.
- Slowly raise your arms above your head as you breathe in through your nose (- 1 - 2 - 3) and lower your arms while breathing out through your mouth (- 1 - 2 - 3)
- Repeat.
- Sit comfortably and continue to breathe slowly and deeply.
- Think about something you enjoy as you continue breathing for 2 or 3 minutes.