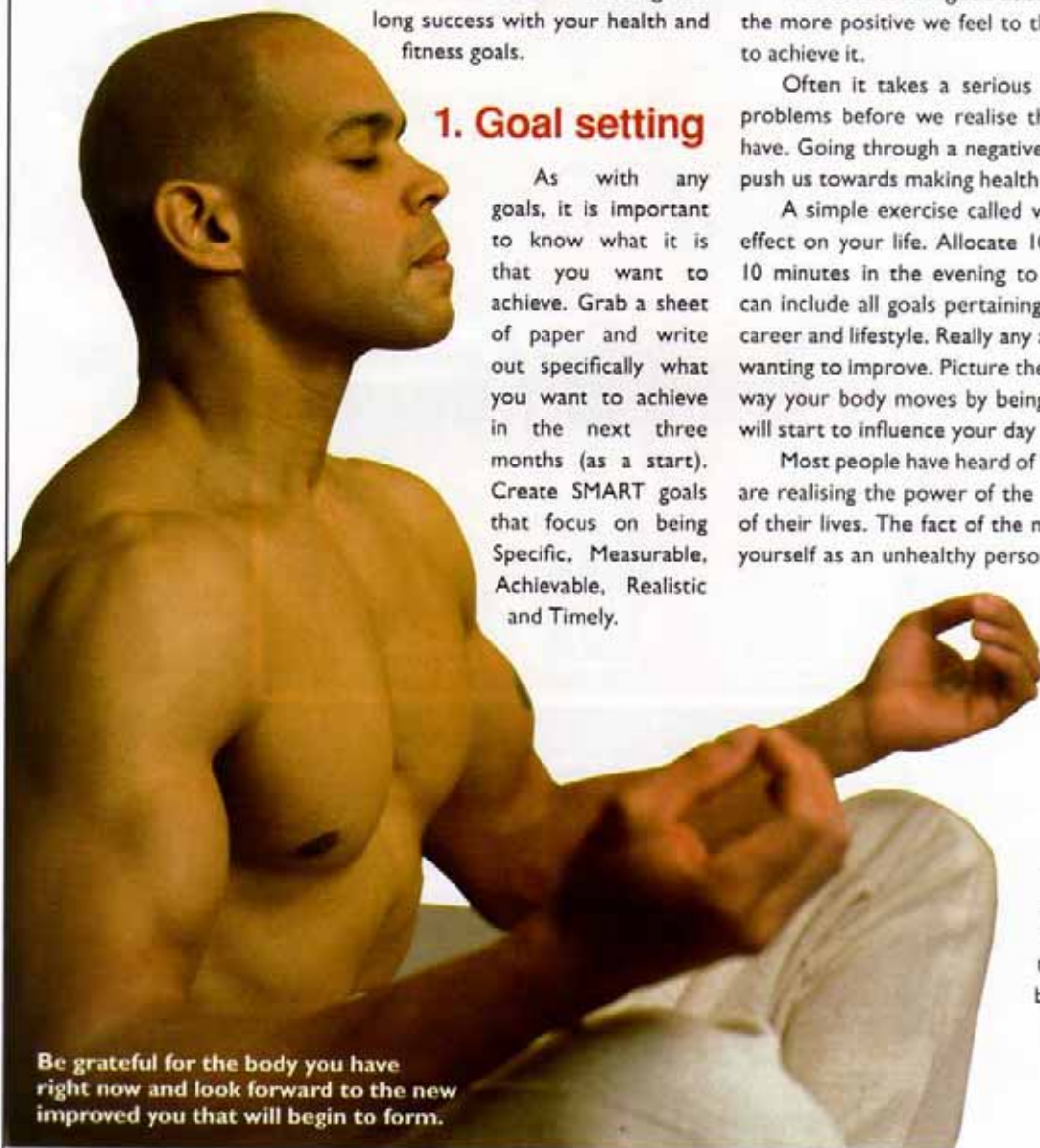




Three simple strategies for health success

Everywhere we look there is a new way to lose weight, get rid of cellulite and all in under two minutes a day, or something to that effect!

Some diets and routines promote eating low carbs, low fat, low sugar, low everything, until there is basically no food left to enjoy. Here are a few simple strategies which are overlooked in creating life-long success with your health and fitness goals.



1. Goal setting

As with any goals, it is important to know what it is that you want to achieve. Grab a sheet of paper and write out specifically what you want to achieve in the next three months (as a start). Create SMART goals that focus on being Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.

A frequently missed component of setting goals is the "why". You need to know why you want to achieve your goal and the "why" needs to motivate you to take action.

We need to feel good about moving towards our goal, so the more positive we feel to the goal the more likely we are to achieve it.

Often it takes a serious illness or even stress-related problems before we realise that our health is really all we have. Going through a negative experience can be enough to push us towards making health and fitness improvements.

A simple exercise called visualisation can have dramatic effect on your life. Allocate 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening to focusing on your goals. This can include all goals pertaining to your health, relationships, career and lifestyle. Really any aspect of your life that you are wanting to improve. Picture the clothes you can wear and the way your body moves by being healthier. This daily exercise will start to influence your day to day activities.

Most people have heard of "The Secret" DVD by now and are realising the power of the mind in relation to all aspects of their lives. The fact of the matter is that if you are seeing yourself as an unhealthy person, then you are going to keep

attracting experiences to support this belief and continue to be this person.

Create the type of person you wish to be and the lifestyle you wish to have in your minds eye first and then watch as it starts to happen in your reality! Always remember to be grateful for the body you have right now and look forward to the new improved you that will begin to form.

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2. Shopping for health

Have you ever started a "diet" with gusto by emptying your fridge and cupboards of all the "bad" foods and then raiding the supermarket for "diet" foods that end up making you feel hungrier. The more foods you eliminate in an attempt to eat healthier, the harder it will be for you to stick to the plan long term. There is a greater chance that you will binge later on these restricted foods if you are left unsatisfied. Most foods are fine in moderation. Foods are neither good nor bad. Always judge how you feel after eating certain foods and keep a balance between healthy foods and your favourite treats.

It is best to change your diet gradually and modify the foods you usually eat. For example if you always eat Kebabs for lunch from your local Kebab shop, you can start making your own for a cost effective and very healthy meal. Add your own shredded lamb or chicken and stuff pita pockets with salad and a home-made yoghurt dressing. Place inside a grill and toast the outside of the bread. Yum!

It is very important to enjoy what you are eating. If you eat foods that do not satisfy you, then you are more likely to overindulge and quit your new diet plan.

Aim to make everything you eat enjoyable and a lifestyle. Make changes gradually so you do not trigger resentment or cravings for your banned foods. Mix up your meals to include foods you have not tried before and experiment with different flavours to see what works best for you.

3. Use your environment

As important as what you eat is, so is how much you eat. You can eat healthy foods, yet remain at the same weight if you are consuming too much. Portion sizes have increased radically over the last decade. Serving sizes on many commercial products have increased, so we consume more on an ongoing basis.

Watch out for small portion sized products where the manufacturer has repackaged their products into bite size

or single serving packets. Psychologically we tend to feel less satisfied after consuming a small portion size, so we are more likely to reach for another helping. In the end, we may consume more than a regular serving size.

On the other extreme, avoid eating big portions of foods. In other words don't "supersize" your meal. When eating out in restaurants and fast food places we tend to eat all of what we have ordered. When you can, cook at home,

Pack your lunches and snacks to control portion sizes and eliminate unnecessarily eating out.



When eating out in restaurants and fast food places don't "supersize" your meal if you are watching your weight.

If you eat as a treat or every time you sit down to watch TV, it is time to eliminate this costly habit. Do not take bags of food with you to the couch. Measure out a portion into a bowl and pack away the food. Better yet, try to occupy your hands by nursing a hot cup of herbal tea or even glass of water until you eliminate this habit.

What you think, how you shop and how your environment is set up, are all important on your quest to better health. It is important to exercise and eat healthy for life-long well-being, so use these simple but effective simple strategies to support your goals.

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