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DISCLOSURES

FINANCIAL I have received an honorarium for this presentation. I am the author of a book of a similar title for which I receive royalties and is published by my company, Dynamic Resources

NONFINANCIAL No non-financial relationships exist related to the content of this presentation.

Every single innovation, regardless of the field, was once only the germ of an idea when someone who had the courage to ask "what if" The world, including our professional world, will continue to change and evolve.

Rather than clinging to what is comfortable and familiar, Imaginologists endeavor to embrace new ideas, using their imaginations to create new possibilities for the good of our students and their families



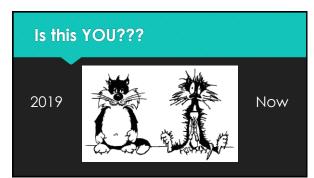






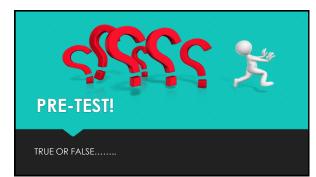
2020 (and











1. Most of our stress is a result of external factors that we cannot control.

FALSE!

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Stress is caused by our INTERNAL response to external factors.

We have a choice in how we respond to events



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You can surrender to the fact that work (and life) is inherently stressful and there's nothing you can do about it



OR

•You can choose to begin to proactively manage stress by changing the way you respond to factors that are not under your control.



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Research Shows That:

- OWorking more hours per week is productive only to a point.
- ORegularly working more than 55 hours per week leads to burnout and stagnation.
- OProfessional success and job satisfaction typically increase when people take time to pursue personal and leisure goals.

The Challenge

To be successful in your professional practice setting AND maintain personal relationships and protect personal time

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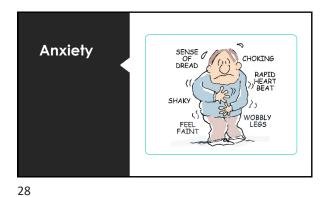




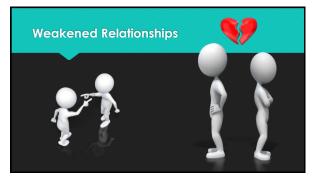
Apathy/ Low Morale

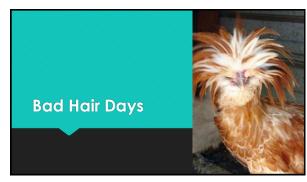
Aggression

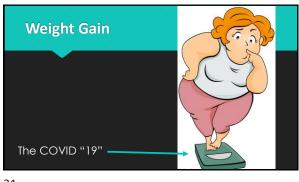




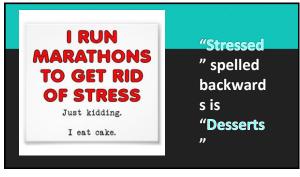














Drug and alcohol addiction



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Poor Health High blood pressure

- Heart disease
- Regular headaches
- □ Sleeplessness
- Metabolic shifts
- Depression or mood swingsPanic attacks
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder

What to do? What to do?



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Strategies to Proactively Manage Stress





1. Identify your Personal and Professional Stressors



Name the Beast to Tame the Beast

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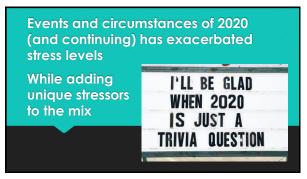
KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

- Oln order to manage stress effectively, it is important to identify exactly what is causing the stress.
- OWe can then take steps to neutralize the stress at its source rather than trying to manage the symptoms on a daily basis.

Common Stressors for Schools-Based Professionals

- 1. Time constraints/lack of personal time
- 2. Institutional procedures and paperwork.
- 3. Unrealistic workloads
- 4. Ineffective/frustrating interactions with parents, colleagues, etc
- 5. Feeling helpless (what can one person do?)
- 6. Lack of reward and recognition
- 7. Professional identity issues
- 8. Coping with constant change

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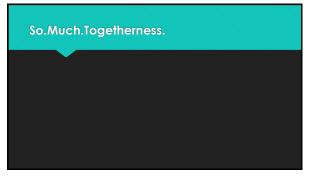




Wearing too many hats!

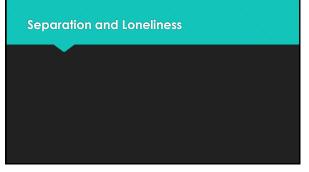
O Already a problem, but now we try to manage work, child care, elder care, 3 meals a day, housekeeping, self care,

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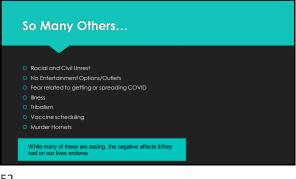


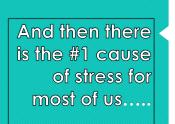


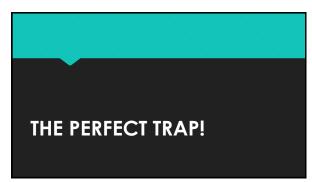












- Create fabulous lessons (from scratch) for every group or client every day Provide the same quality services to students on our caseload of 75 (or 80 or 100) that we provided when our caseload was 35.
- Meet with parents at conferences, send home daily progress reports, and consult with every child's teacher.
- Complete all paperwork on time, bill out access services, and collect outcome data daily.
- Develop uniuge assessment protocols and in-depth reports, including rationales, validity and reliability data, and growth trends for every child
- Read all your professional journals cover to cover
- Provide consultative services, sit on at-risk committees, and coordinate AAC services
- Chair the sunshine fund, organize the weekly potluck, never forget a colleague's birthday, and be the unit's undisputed fashion maven

Raise well adjusted children who receive a lot of individual attention

- Have a Martha Stewart home and garden
- Create home-cooked, gourmet meals on a daily basis
- OMaintain perfect hair and nails
- Coach your kid's soccer team
- ONever snap at your spouse/partner
- Chair the library committee, teach Sunday School, and volunteer to make the costumes for the dance recital.
- Etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc. etc. etc. etc.

NAME THE BEAST TO TAME THE BEAST Nerreg ours thesars to the third large to large them. The 5 them cannot be what, exactly, is carring you there. One you know what to tackle, you can cre- ate an action plan to infigure the effects.	
Mount You returns, interaction and, interaction and the set of the first of the set of the You You and a set of the You	
	Complete during upcoming break

Re-balancing your Life

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How do you do that?

• Do what you do WELL

ODo it as EFFICIENTLY as possible

OINVEST time in pursuing your personal goals (What makes you happy/feeds your soul).





SHIFT YOUR THINKING

Free yourself from the futility of "if only" to the possibilities of "what if?"



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YOU are the CEO of your life.



- OMost people don't take the time to truly think about what they want to accomplish.
- O Instead, their goals and actions are dictated by the wants and needs of others.
- OThey are busy all the time, but never feel they have accomplished anything.
- This is a HUGE SOURCE OF STRESS!!

Get off the hamster wheel...





The key to getting what you want, to having a fulfilling life, to feeling less stressed, and more in control is to identify what you want to accomplish -AND THEN DO IT!



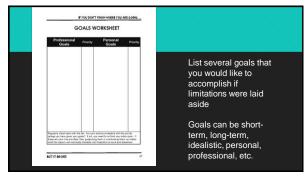
If I only I had _____, I would ____

OReally think about this for a minute.

OWhat would you do/pursue/accomplish if you only had the time, money, freedom, knowledge, etc. etc.?

OKAY TO THINK ABOUT THIS FOR WHEN PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS EASE

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Next, pick a goal and identify a FIRST step



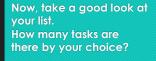
Working hard for something we don't care about is called **STRESS**.

Working hard for something we love is called **PASSION**.





- O Schedule a ridiculous number of parent meetings
- Test Jimmy and Maria
- Take dog to the vet
- O Meet with Mr. and Mrs. Peach
- O Develop schedule for next week
- Update billing records
- O Do grocery shopping
- O Adapt materials for on-line delivery
- O Accumulate CEUs
- Laundry, Ironing
- Doctor's app
- O Meet with OT regarding Suzy Q
- O Keep own kids on track for school





Odds are that is it chock full of tasks that OTHERS have put there for you (e.g., paperwork, assessment reports, meetings, errands, etc) Odds are even greater that there are few or even NO tasks on your list that support your personal development and long term goals.

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Reminder: YOU are the CEO of your life!



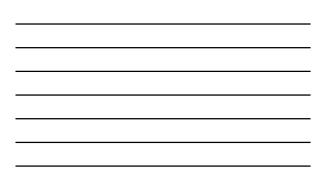
• When our actions are dictated solely by the wants and needs of others, by default, we let OTHERS choose our goals and consume our time.

OThis can lead to stress, burnout and a sense of being unfulfilled or unappreciated.

HEAR YOU ARE DOING GREAT THINGS! Date Creat	e ated	
MASTER LIST		
Task	Priority	Complete By
Make sure your to-do list always		
includes AT LEAST one task that		
you choose that will help you		
move toward your personal goal		
START WITH THE FIRST STEP YOU JUST IDENTIFIED		



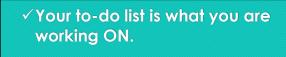




Master List

- O Includes every task, project, activity, obligation, etc.
- Add pages as you need them (don't rewrite every day)
- O Cross off items as you complete them
- Review and consolidate periodically
- Carry it with you so you can add or cross things off as appropriate
- O BE CONSISTENT IN KEEPING YOUR LIST UP TO DATE!





 $\checkmark\,$ Your goals are what you are working TOWARD.

It's important to have both!!





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>		











11/10/2021











And the Moral of the Story is ????????

Schedule Your Important Stuff FIRST

- Make sure that your "big rocks" are things that are most important to you.
- Put these in your "jar" first. (Schedule time for them)
- This ensures that you are moving toward your personal goals.
 If you put in the "little rocks" (things on your list that don't contribute to your personal and professional goals) you won't be able to fit in tasks that are most important to you (your big rocks:)

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YOU are the CEO of your life.



- OMost people don't take the time to truly think about what they want to accomplish.
- O Identifying your personal goals and working toward them helps you take control (or take back control) of your life.
- OWhen you invest time in yourself, your stress will be reduced and your satisfaction in life will rise.



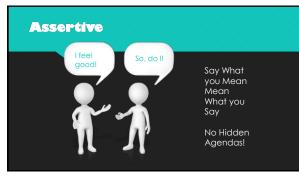


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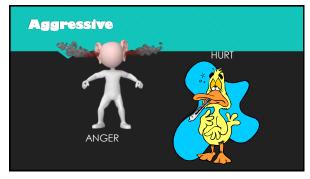
Types of Communicative Exchanges

OAssertive

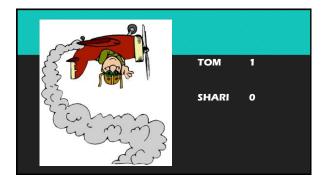
- Aggressive
- **O**Passive
- OPassive-Aggressive











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Managing Communication

OBe aware of the effect of communication styles used by others

- OUse Assertive Communication when you initiate conversations and in response to other's attempts to manipulate you using the other styles.
- OEliminate passive aggressive and aggressive communication from your daily interactions (this one step alone is GUARANTEED to substantially reduce your stress)

Dealing with Difficult People Working with YOU is Killing ME!



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Dealing with Difficult People is a MUST!

- Your situation will almost always get WORSE not better – if left unaddressed.
- Olt may simmer for a while, but it will eventually erupt (or you will).

WORST CASE SCENARIO



You may find YOURSELF being painted with the same brush as your difficult perso

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Difficult People are Difficult Because they are Reinforced for Being Difficult!

- Difficult people don't become difficult overnight
- They are difficult because they have years of "success" in getting their way
- Our job is to break the cycle or they will continue to be difficult because it is WORKING FOR THEM!



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EVERYONE badly.

So, we need to STOP taking their behavior personally!

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You can't control the behavior of difficult people but you can control your OWN behavior in response to them.



YOUR BEHAVIOR-CHANGING TOOLBOX

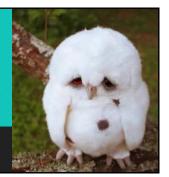
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✓ Use Assertive Communication

- Do not get sucked into the black hole of non-productive conversation with difficult people.
- Say what you mean, mean what you say.State the behavior
- Ask searchlight questions
- Expect respect •
- S: You must model assertive communication as the standard for the department/unit/college. If you want a productive, functioning department, this is your #1 job.



"What you fail to forgive, you live."



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✓ Dump the Victim Mentality

OWhining is not a substitute for action!

O Feeling sorry for yourself or bemoaning your situation will NOT change it.

O It's your job to change your environment if you don't like it.

"You're nobody's victim without your permission." Eleanor Roosevelt

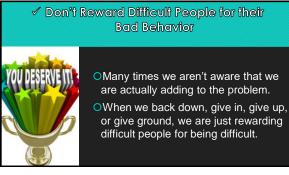
119

Pause and Visualize

- Put your difficult person in a box at the end of the day
- Close the box
- Do not open the box until you get back to work









Dealing with Whiney/Victim Types



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DO



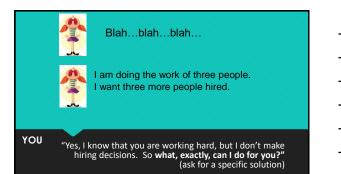
OListen with compassion - briefly

OInterrupt if necessary

OAsk them is there is something specific that you can do to help them solve their problem

ODirect them to the proper person

ODraw the line





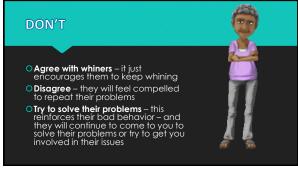
Blah, Blah, Blah.... (whiner keeps whining)

YOU

"Kristy, our friendship is important to me, but there's no point in complaining if nothing can be done. If you want to talk to me about solutions or anything other than problems, my door is always open."

(Draw the line)

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Dealing with Aggressive/Angry Obnoxious Types



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Do Command Respect Stand your ground ~Make eye contact ~Visualize

~Breathe

- OListen without Interrupting
- **OTHEN:** Interrupt (Use Name)
- Oldentify Indent
- OProvide a "Bottom Line"
- OPeace with Honor

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Aggressive people require assertive responses

DON'T



OPush back/Counterattack OBecome defensive

- OGet drawn into an argument
- OTry to prove you are "right"
- OAllow yourself to get run over, have your time invaded, or withdraw from the interaction

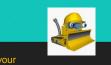


The bulldozer barges into a classroom where you are working with students

"I TOLD you we needed IEPS for the entire year scheduled THIS MONTH. I don't care of they are not due for 2 more months. Why are you wasting time working with teachers and parents in the classroom? We need to get this done or we will be out of compliance!"



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OLet the bulldozer wind down (stand your ground/listen)

O"Lori, Lori, Lori, Lori (Interrupt the attack)

O"I understand that you are concerned about being in compliance so we do not lose funding" (Identify intent)

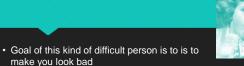
- From my point of view, the time I am spending with teachers and parents will ensure that the IEPs we develop will provide efficient and effective intervention services." (Bottom Line)
- "I have a master timeline for scheduling IEPs. I will be more than happy to share that with you when I am not working with students." (Peace with honor)



Dealing with Tattlers, Backstabbers, **Sniper Types**







- make you look bad
- · Believes that in order to for them to "win" someone else has to "lose."
- But operates in the dark too much of a coward to communicate directly

Passive Aggressive – the communication style of cowards...

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DO: Bring them out of hiding through assertive communication • Use Searchlight questions O When you say that, what do you mean? (sarcastic comments) Stand your ground O "I can take a joke, but I'm still wondering what you meant by" O Use broken record technique O (keep asking the question until its answered) • State shared purpose • We have to work together and the best way to do that is to trust each other O Keep your cool. Reacting in any way other than through assertive communication gives them power and motivates them to keep doing it

DON'T

- OAllow the sniper/tattler to hide in the shadows OShine a spotlight on their bad behavior
- OLose Your cool
- Reacting in any way other than through assertive communication gives them power and motivates them to keep doing it

OParticipate in Tattling interactions

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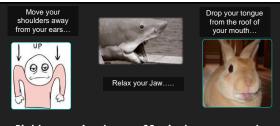
Remember!



- O Don't allow yourself (or others) to make excuses for the person who is being difficult.
- Don't take their behavior personally they most likely treat everyone badly.
 Don't reward difficult people for their
- negative behavior.
- ODON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS TIME AND ENERGY THINKING ABOUT A DIFFICULT PERSON.







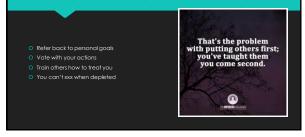
Right now... (and every 30 minutes you spend in front of a screen)



"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."



Putting Yourself First is not Selfish







"I AM NOT REQUIRED TO SET MYSELF ON FIRE TO KEEP OTHERS WARM."

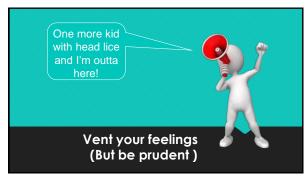
REMIND YOURSELF OFTEN....

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"Saying 'yes' to happiness means learning to say 'no' to things and people that stress you out."





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Perfection is an artificial and useless construct OWe are human. We aren't perfect.

• Striving for an impossible perfect standard raises our stress levels, increases burnout and depression, and reduces our creativity.













2020 – We pl<u>ugged in</u>

- The Perfect Storm of events in 2020 created an environment where most of us exponentially increased our screen time.
- Screens became our only link outside our "bubbles."
- In these circumstances, it is not surprising that most of us ended up semi-addicted to screens – TV, phones, laptops, tablets, computers, watches.



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NOW-Time to Unplug



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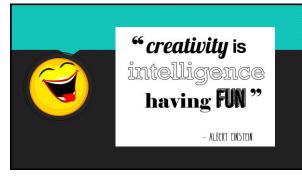
Starting a Digital Diet

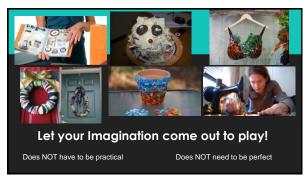
Pay attention (or journal) the amount of time you are spending on screens
 Note how you feel afterward

- O Note how you feel afterward
- Set goals to reduce time on social media and other non-essential screen time.
- Delete yourself from echo chamber groups and pay attention to rabbit holes (these are massive stress producers)
- Put other activities on your to-do list (work toward your personal goals during the time away from social media or other non-essential screen time)
- O Pay attention to the positive outcomes to reducing time plugged in.

 CREATE SOMETHING (Release your Inner Imaginologist)

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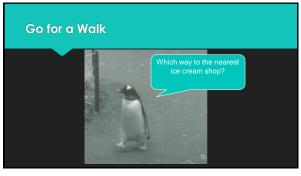


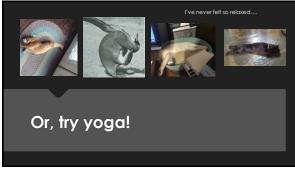


stupid...

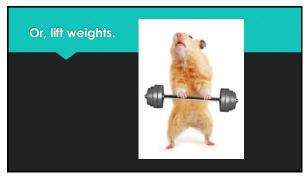










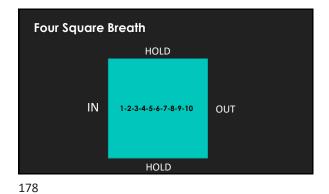


TIP FROM SHARI: Full shopping bags make good hand weights

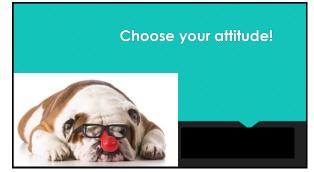




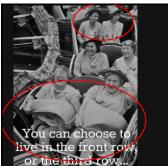












ATTITUDE COUNTS!

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Negativity

- OAttitude plays a significant part in productivity, stress levels, and job satisfaction.
- ONegativity is toxic to individuals and organizations.
- OAvoid associating with people who contribute to negativity and
- OBE A CATALYST FOR FUN!





Adults tend to be mired in responsibility, predictability and boundaries—the antitheses of imagination.

Let your wild child come out to play.

Associate with other positive people

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FORGIVE EASILY

OHolding a grudge against someone is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die









Such as:

- Sacrifice my personal goals and/or consistently put the needs of others before my own
- O Allow someone else to make me feel inadequate.
- O Volunteer to do something that I don't really want to do
- O Substitute stress, worry or guilt for action
- O Spend my time being influenced by others
- O Give in to despair...

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Personal Action Plan

The Definition of Insanity is doing what you have always done and expecting different results....

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Look at your List of Personal Stressors and Goals

- OComplete Your personal action plan (you'll find it in the handouts)
- Oldentify at least one strategy that you have personally targeted to begin NEXT WEEK!
- O Monitor the results of your efforts
- OReward yourself for small victories.
- OSlowly add new goals.
- OPersist, persist, persist.

YOU are the CEO of the rest of your life!



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	NOW, YOU'VE GOT A HANDLE ON LI	Æ	
	ACTION PLAN		
From on in the is happen. W	the list of strategies we explored today, choose 1 or 2 to vo smeclate future. Then, list the steps you will take to make this Offic THE PLANI	¢.	
STRAT	EGY:	7	
Steps		-	Worksheet #8
STRA	TEGY:		
Steps			
BUT IT BR	xe	145	

