Fitness \& Wellness: Flexibility Yoga Pose Cards Lesson 1

## Neck Stretch



- Sit cross-legged or on heels with back straight
- Inhale and slowly lower right ear to right shoulder
- Exhale and return to center
- Inhale and slowly lower left ear to left shoulder
- Exhale and return to center
- Inhale and lower chin to chest
- Exhale and return to center
- Repeat for 6-8 breaths

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Shoulder Rolls


- Perform slow shoulder rolls to the front and back
- Inhale on the upward movement
- Exhale on the downward movement

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## Cat and Cow



- Begin on hands and knees
- Hands beneath shoulders and knees beneath hips
- Back flat, eyes looking at floor
- Inhale and arch spine upward, tuck tailbone, bend neck, and look underneath body (Cat)
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale, arch back downward, tailbone up in the air, head up (Cow)
- Hold for 3-4 breaths

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## Upward Facing Dog

- Lie face down
- Elbows bent, close to the body
- Hands alongside chest
- Inhale and push through hands, lift body
- Chest and hips raised
- Look straight ahead
- Knees, shins, and toes on floor
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale, slowly lower body

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## Hip Raise



- Sit on heels with arms at sides
- Inhale, open arms to side and raise them overhead while raising hips to a kneeling position
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale, lower arms, and lower hips to heels

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Sun Salutation


- Stand tall, arms by sides
- Inhale, open arms and bring together overhead
- Reach overhead and back
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale
- Bend at waist, reach hands toward floor
- Relax head between arms
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Repeat

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## Knee Lifts



- Stand, feet shoulder-width apart, toes forward
- Inhale, lift one leg until knee is bent at $90^{\circ}$
- Hold for 2-3 breaths
- Exhale, slowly lower leg
- Repeat on opposite side

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Downward Facing Dog


- Begin on hands and knees
- Inhale, straighten legs
- Bend at hips and lift upward
- Relax head between arms
- Press heels to floor
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale
- Lower body to floor

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## Cobra

- Lie on stomach
- Hands on ground, in front of shoulders
- Elbows close to ribs
- Inhale, staighten arms
- Slowly lift head and shoulders
- Look up and back
- Hold for 3-4 breaths
- Exhale slowly lower body to floor


# Fitness \& Wellness: Flexibility Yoga Pose Cards Lesson 1 

## Happy Baby



- Lie on back
- Arms at sides
- Hands open, palms up
- Inhale
- Pull knees to chest
- Wrap arms around legs
- Rock slowly, side to side, 3-4 breaths

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## Corpse



- Lie on back
- Arms at 4 and 8 o'clock
- Feet hip-width apart, relaxed
- Eyes closed
- Breathe slowly
- Imagine body being pulled into ground
- Hold for 8-10 breaths

