

Reviving romance



When you've had the same partner for a long time, it's natural to feel comfortable with them, and even feel bored occasionally. The initial rush of being in love and the excitement of your new relationship may be a distant memory. You might be left wondering where the romance has gone.

Romance does not necessarily mean hearts, chocolates, flowers, or grand gestures, though.

First and foremost, it's about being appreciated and feeling acknowledged.

It's an affirmation that your partner is valued by you, and you are valued by your partner, no matter what is happening around you. Romance is about putting someone else first.

Why has romance disappeared?

There are many reasons why romance, or putting your partner first, is difficult to maintain.

It may be the result communication or financial problems, or concerns about your children or other members of your family.

Whatever the reasons though, here are some things you can try to help you and your partner bring back the romance in your relationship.

1 Reflect on what attracted you to each other when you first met

There are many ways you can reflect on the early days in your relationship. You might revisit the place where you had your first date, such as a restaurant, park or cinema.

Remind each other what you saw and felt in those first few months. Reflecting on this initial attraction can help to draw couples closer together.

2 Preserve the rituals that bring you both joy, and create new ones

Rituals can help couples discover a sense of belonging and connection, while also enhancing awareness of their own personal identity.

You could go for a bike ride together, join a cooking class, or visit a new cafe each week. You could also think about what you do together when you're on holidays, that could become a part of your daily life at home.

TIP SHEET

3 Support each other's dreams and goals

Couples should be in touch with, and supportive of, each other's dreams and aspirations.

Sit down together and look at each other's plans and goals for the coming year. These could include individual, family, holiday, or financial aims. Talk about these goals and what you can do to achieve them.

Workshopping your goals together can give you a vision of a shared future, which can help you both to connect as a couple.

4 Let your partner know that you think about them during the day

Small acts of kindness are usually behaviours displayed early in a relationship, but can diminish over time.

Throughout your relationship, take the time to show your partner that you care about them.

Kind gestures do not need to be extravagant or expensive. Think about small things you can do for your partner, such as cooking their favourite meal, leaving short love notes around the house, sending them a card in the mail, buying a small gift or flowers, or doing their least favourite chore.

TIP SHEET

5 Maintain intimacy in your relationship

Intimacy is an important way of expressing love. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual intimacy.

Have a conversation with your partner about sex - maybe your needs have changed while you've been a couple.

Small signs of affection can also help to maintain intimacy. Kiss each other hello and goodbye, tell your partner that you love them or hold hands.

You could plan a weekend away for just the two of you, or go out on a date night.

Take the time to focus on each other and on your relationship.

6 Express interest and curiosity about your partner

Ask questions and be informed about your partner's inner and outer world. Listen to how they're feeling and what they're thinking, and learn about what's going on at work and in other areas of their life. People change constantly, so don't assume you know everything about them.

Tell your partner what you like about them and compliment them frequently. Be grateful for who they are and what they offer - gratitude helps people to be happy.

When partners can see the good in each other, it helps them through the tough times.

More information

Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) is a leading provider of relationship counselling for couples and individuals who would like to discuss their relationship concerns with a professional.

RAV also offers relationship, commitment and marriage preparation programs to help you better prepare for your lives together.

For more information on our courses and services, visit www.rav.org.au

About Relationships Australia Victoria

RAV is a valued provider of specialist family and relationship services. A community-based, not-for-profit organisation with no religious affiliations, our services are for all members of the community, regardless of their religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, lifestyle choice, cultural background or economic circumstances.

We focus on providing effective services to strengthen relationships and social connections for individuals and families, and in schools, workplaces and communities across all life stages.

For more information on our programs, locations and how to access our services, please visit our website www.rav.org.au or call 1300 364 277.



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