

## **LEVEL 1** | Mobility exercises (Seated).

Mobility is important for everyday activities. You can do these exercises every day, aim to do these exercises a minimum of three times a week.

Remember not to hold your breath when holding the exercises and to breathe regularly and evenly throughout.

## **Shoulder Lift** Repeat 4 times.

Benefits: Improves shoulder movement, releases shoulder tension, and helps to improve posture.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart knees over ankles.
- 3. Rest arms loosely by your sides.
- 4. Lift both shoulders up towards your ears.
- 5. Control your shoulders down and away from the ears as far as possible, at the same time lengthening your neck.

## **Shoulder Circles** | Repeat 4 times.



Benefits: Improves shoulder movement, releases shoulder tension, and helps to improve posture.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart knees over ankles.
- 3. Rest arms loosely by your sides.
- 4. Circle your shoulders forward up backwards then down, keeping the shoulders back when lowering.

**Tip:** Keep movements slow and controlled.







**Progression**: Try both exercises above while standing.

- 1. Stand tall with good posture, feet hip width apart.
- 2. Knees soft, arms resting loosely by sides in line with hip.
- 3. Perform exercise exactly as seated.

**Side Bends** Repeat twice on each side.



**Benefits**: Improves mobility of the spine and helps

improve balance and reaching down to the floor.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart knees over ankles.
- 3. Rest arms loosely by your sides.
- 4. Keep tummy muscles pulled in and ribs lifted.
- 5. Slide your arm down in line with the hip (allow your back and neck to bend sideways).
  - 6. Return to centre, check posture, repeat on other side.

**Tip:** Keep weight even on sit bones, avoid lifting one buttock off the seat when leaning to the side.



**Progression**: Try and repeat this exercise when standing.

- 1. Stand tall with good posture, feet hip width apart, knees soft.
- 2. Rest arms loosely by sides in line with hip (free hand on chair).
- 3. Perform exactly as seated.





**Hip Lifts** | Repeat 4 times in each direction.



Benefits: Improves hip and lower back mobility.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart knees over ankles.
- 3. Tummy muscles pulled in.
- 4. Lift one buttock of the seat taking the hip towards the ribs.
- 5. Lower with control and repeat on other side.

**Trunk Twists** | Repeat twice on each side.

Benefits: Improves movement in the middle and upper parts of the spine and maintains good upper body movement.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart, knees over ankles and arms at sides.
- 3. Keeping both thighs firmly on the seat, take the right arm backwards and hold the chair back close to the seat.
  - 4. Place the left hand on the right knee.
  - 5. Lengthen and lift the trunk upwards.
  - 6. Then slowly turn the head and shoulders towards the back hand.
  - 7. Return to start position and repeat to other side.





**Heel Tap, Toe Tap** Repeat 4 times in each direction.

Benefits: Improve movement in the ankles, reduce ankle stiffness and improve ankle stability.

- 1. Sit in the front third of your chair with upright posture.
- 2. Legs and feet hip width apart.
- 3. Support the back by holding the chair seat with both hands.
- 4. Place the heel of one foot on the floor under the knee.
- 5. Then lift the knee and aim to place the toe on the same spot.

**Tip:** Ensure movement is slow, controlled and is as big as possible.

## Progress to **LEVEL 2** Mobility exercises (Standing).

Once confident in performing these 6 mobility exercises seated, you can progress to standing.

Adaptations and technique pointers for performing these exercises standing can be found on the LEVEL 2 mobility exercise cards.

