# **BETTER SLEEP BLUEPRINT**



## **4 GUT-FIRST STRATEGIES FOR DEEPER, MORE RESTFUL SLEEP**

Struggling to fall asleep—or waking up at 3 a.m. with your mind racing? Your gut may be part of the problem.

Your gut and brain are in constant communication. If your digestion is off, it can disrupt hormones like **serotonin, melatonin, and GABA**—all key players in your sleep cycle.

Try my gut-friendly steps to help you fall asleep faster, stay asleep longer, and wake up feeling more refreshed.



## **1. NOURISH YOUR GUT**

A healthy gut helps produce serotonin, which converts into melatonin your body's natural sleep hormone. The right foods and supplements can support that process.

### TRY THIS:

- Eat more fiber-rich foods like oats, apples, flax, and cooked veggies
- Take a high-potency probiotic with diverse strains
- 😢 Cut back on sugar and artificial sweeteners that disrupt gut bacteria

BONUS: Fiber also helps balance blood sugar—another sleep disruptor.



## 2. CALM THE GUT-BRAIN LOOP

Stress affects your gut, and your gut affects your sleep. When the gut-brain loop is overstimulated, sleep suffers.

#### **TRY THIS:**

- Use calming supplements like GABA, L-theanine, or a short-term low-dose melatonin
- Practice deep breathing after dinner
- 😢 Limit screens and stimulation in the hour before bed

**BONUS:** Certain gut bacteria even help make GABA, a natural calming neurotransmitter.

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**VISIT BRENDAWATSON.COM** OR FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL FOR MORE SUPPORT AND TOOLS TO RESET YOUR GUT.



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## **3. BALANCE BLOOD SUGAR BEFORE BED**

Blood sugar dips can cause middle-of-the-night wakeups by triggering cortisol, your body's stress hormone.

### **TRY THIS:**

- 😣 Avoid sugary or high-carb snacks before bed
- Have a small protein-rich snack like a spoonful of nut butter or a hard-boiled egg



### 4. BUILD A GUT-FRIENDLY SLEEP ROUTINE

Simple nighttime habits can help your gut and brain sync up for better rest.

#### **TRY THIS:**

- Stick to a consistent bedtime
- 📀 Keep your bedroom cool, dark, and quiet
- Take a warm bath with magnesium salts to promote calm
- Use white noise if your environment is noisy



If your sleep is off, don't just look at your pillow look at your gut. Supporting digestion and calming your gut-brain axis may be the missing link to better sleep.



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