



Bright Futures Parent Handout 7 and 8 Year Visits

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

Staying Healthy

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Eat together often as a family.
- Start every day with breakfast.
- Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods, and encourage 3 servings each day.
- Limit soft drinks, juice, candy, chips, and high-fat food.
- Include 5 servings of vegetables and fruits at meals and for snacks daily.
- Limit TV and computer time to 2 hours a day.
- Do not have a TV or computer in your child's bedroom.
- Encourage your child to play actively for at least 1 hour daily.

SAFETY

Safety

SAFETY

- Your child should always ride in the back seat and use a booster seat until the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fit.
- Teach your child to swim and watch her in the water.
- Use sunscreen when outside.
- Provide a good-fitting helmet and safety gear for biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
- Keep your house and cars smoke free.
- Never have a gun in the home. If you must have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.

DEVELOPMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Watch your child's computer use.
 - Know who she talks to online.
 - Install a safety filter.
- Know your child's friends and their families.
- Teach your child plans for emergencies such as a fire.
 - Teach your child how and when to dial 911.
- Teach your child how to be safe with other adults.
 - No one should ask for a secret to be kept from parents.
 - No one should ask to see private parts.
 - No adult should ask for help with his private parts.

Your Growing Child

- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Hug, praise, and take pride in your child for good behavior and doing well in school.
- Be a good role model.
- Don't hit or allow others to hit.
- Help your child to do things for himself.
- Teach your child to help others.
- Discuss rules and consequences with your child.
- Be aware of puberty and body changes in your child.
- Answer your child's questions simply.
- Talk about what worries your child.

School

SCHOOL

- Attend back-to-school night, parent-teacher events, and as many other school events as possible.
- Talk with your child and child's teacher about bullies.
- Talk to your child's teacher if you think your child might need extra help or tutoring.
- Your child's teacher can help with evaluations for special help, if your child is not doing well.

Healthy Teeth

ORAL HEALTH

- Help your child brush teeth twice a day.
 - After breakfast
 - Before bed
- Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste with fluoride.
- Help your child floss her teeth once a day.
- Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Encourage your child to always wear a mouth guard to protect teeth while playing sports.

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:
1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org



American Academy of Pediatrics



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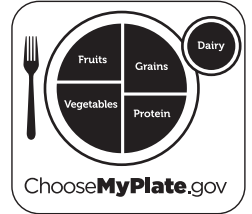
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10 tips

Nutrition
Education Series

build a healthy meal

10 tips for healthy meals



A healthy meal starts with more vegetables and fruits and smaller portions of protein and grains. Think about how you can adjust the portions on your plate to get more of what you need without too many calories. And don't forget dairy—make it the beverage with your meal or add fat-free or low-fat dairy products to your plate.

1 make half your plate veggies and fruits

Vegetables and fruits are full of nutrients and may help to promote good health. Choose red, orange, and dark-green vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and broccoli.



2 add lean protein

Choose protein foods, such as lean beef and pork, or chicken, turkey, beans, or tofu. Twice a week, make seafood the protein on your plate.

3 include whole grains

Aim to make at least half your grains whole grains. Look for the words "100% whole grain" or "100% whole wheat" on the food label. Whole grains provide more nutrients, like fiber, than refined grains.

4 don't forget the dairy

Pair your meal with a cup of fat-free or low-fat milk. They provide the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but less fat and calories. Don't drink milk? Try soy milk (soy beverage) as your beverage or include fat-free or low-fat yogurt in your meal.



5 avoid extra fat

Using heavy gravies or sauces will add fat and calories to otherwise healthy choices. For example, steamed broccoli is great, but avoid topping it with cheese sauce. Try other options, like a sprinkling of low-fat parmesan cheese or a squeeze of lemon.

6 take your time

Savor your food. Eat slowly, enjoy the taste and textures, and pay attention to how you feel. Be mindful. Eating very quickly may cause you to eat too much.

7 use a smaller plate

Use a smaller plate at meals to help with portion control. That way you can finish your entire plate and feel satisfied without overeating.

8 take control of your food

Eat at home more often so you know exactly what you are eating. If you eat out, check and compare the nutrition information. Choose healthier options such as baked instead of fried.

9 try new foods

Keep it interesting by picking out new foods you've never tried before, like mango, lentils, or kale. You may find a new favorite! Trade fun and tasty recipes with friends or find them online.



10 satisfy your sweet tooth in a healthy way

Indulge in a naturally sweet dessert dish—fruit! Serve a fresh fruit cocktail or a fruit parfait made with yogurt. For a hot dessert, bake apples and top with cinnamon.