



## 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables

Fruits and vegetables provide a lot of nutrients and water without a lot of calories. They also contain fiber and a variety of phytochemicals that help prevent cancer, heart disease, and other diseases. Young children often reject new foods at first – it may take several exposures to a new food before it is accepted so keep trying!

- Prepare meals and snacks at home using fruits and vegetables and let children help in the kitchen so they learn how to make healthy foods.
- Eat together as a family and model healthy eating to your children.
- Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods at planned times throughout the day. Let children choose whether and how much they eat.

## 2 or fewer hours of recreational screen time<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup>review guidelines on parenting strategies to encourage quality screen time (AAP, 2015)

Screen time is free time spent in front of screens – like televisions, video games, and the internet. It is possible to get enough physical activity and still engage in an unhealthy amount of screen time – so encourage your family to find other fun ways to spend their free time!

- Same parenting rules apply to screen time – set limits.
- Role modeling is critical – limit your own screen time.
- Children learn better from live interactions than from passive videos – talk to your children!
- Content matters – review what your children are watching and don't just set a timer!

## 1 or more hours of physical activity

Moving your body is a great way to burn calories, improve your mood, boost your energy, prevent cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and help you sleep better at night – plus, it can be a lot of fun! Look for activities your family can enjoy together so everyone can reap the benefits and help keep one another stay on track!

- Use activities instead of foods as incentives – a trip to the park, sledding hill, laser tag arena, skating rink, batting cage, or community pool can be a great alternative to the ice cream shop to celebrate a job well done.
- Walk or bike as a family to get where you're going.
- Set up activity dates with like-minded families or sign up your family for a charity walk – if you're accountable to someone else you may be more likely to stay active.

## 0 sweetened beverages

It is important to drink fluids to stay healthy, but sweetened beverages add extra sugar and calories to the diet. Watch out for drinks with the following ingredients: sugar, honey, sweetener, syrup (e.g., corn syrup, brown rice syrup), and/or ingredients ending in "ose" (e.g., glucose, dextrose).

- Make water the norm for quenching thirst – drink water when you are thirsty and offer water to thirsty children.
- Sparkling water, still water with slices of lemon, and fruity herbal iced teas are fun alternatives to plain water.
- Nonfat and 1% milk and 100% fruit and vegetable juices contain beneficial nutrients and calories, so think of them as foods that contribute towards your family's healthy diet.

Contact the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at 1-877-382-9185 or [www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu](http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu) for help identifying programs and resources targeting nutrition, physical activity, and screen time!

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