HEALTHY WEIGHT FOR MY CHILDREN

• In the United States, your child will experience change. This may include a change in diet and getting less physical activity. This change can put your child at risk for becoming overweight.

• There is no one correct weight for a child, but there is an ideal weight range. Your family doctor will help you determine a healthy weight for your child.

• Weighing too much or too little can be a problem for your child’s health.

• Some of the health problems of overweight children may include:
  › Diabetes, high blood pressure
  › Difficulty sleeping
  › Depression
  › High cholesterol
  › Difficulty breathing
  › Low self-esteem

• If your child is underweight be careful not to overfeed your child. It is easy for children that are underweight to become overweight. Underweight children should be monitored by a doctor.
MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WEIGHT FOR CHILDREN
REMEMBER 5-2-1-0

Try to feed your children 5 servings of fruits or vegetables on most days.

Limit the amount of time your children spend watching TV, playing video games and using the computer to less than 2 hours a day.

Encourage your children to get at least 1 hour of physical activity a day.

Limit the amount of high fat and sugar foods and drinks your children eat such as french fries, cookies, and soda.

Encourage your children to eat a healthy breakfast. A good meal in the morning will help your child do well in school.
IRON

• Iron is important because it improves your blood.

• If your child does not have enough iron, it can be easier for lead to get into your child's blood. Lead is a natural substance that is sometimes in the paint and pipes of old houses. Too much lead in the blood can cause permanent damage to important organs.

• In pregnant women, low iron can increase the risk of having premature babies.

• Each day you should eat foods that are good sources of iron. Try eating:
  › Lean meat and chicken
  › Green leafy vegetables, like kale or spinach
  › Beans
  › Fish
  › Egg yolks (the yellow part of the egg)

• Iron is better absorbed by your body when eaten with foods that have vitamin C. Foods with vitamin C include:
  › Oranges and orange juice
  › Berries
  › Red Peppers
  › Grapefruit
  › Tomatoes
  › Broccoli

Try these combinations of foods with iron paired with foods with vitamin C:

Spinach and Red Peppers

Eggs and Orange Juice

Talk to your doctor if you are concerned about iron.
CALCIUM

- Calcium is needed to keep your bones and teeth strong.
- It is very important for you and your family to eat foods that are rich in calcium every day.
- Low-fat dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese) contain a lot of calcium. One cup of milk provides about one quarter of the calcium your body needs in a day.

If you cannot eat dairy products, you can eat:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 ounces of almonds</th>
<th>3 cups of pinto beans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup of low-fat or fat free milk</td>
<td>2 1/4 cups cooked broccoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup of low-fat or fat free yogurt</td>
<td>8 cups cooked spinach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 cup is equal to about the size of your fist
An ounce of nuts is equal to about 1 handful

- You can also eat:
  - Green leafy vegetables such as collards, kale, bok choi and turnip greens
  - Beans such as chickpeas, lentils, cowpeas, soybeans and split peas.

- As you and your children get older, you will need more calcium. Ask your doctor how much calcium is right for you.
NUTRITION FOR YOUR PREGNANCY

• **Eat a variety of healthy foods.** This will help you get all the different vitamins you and your baby need.

• **Protein is a good source of calories.** Protein provides your body with vitamins and energy that will help your baby grow. To increase the amount of protein in your body, you can eat beans, low-fat or fat free milk, eggs, lean meats, tofu and peanut butter.

• **Eat foods with iron.** Getting enough iron will decrease the risk of having a premature baby. Vegetables, such as dark leafy greens, are the best source of iron for your body during pregnancy. Eat dark green vegetables with vitamin C foods, such as oranges, for better absorption of iron.

• **Folic acid.** Getting enough folic acid before becoming pregnant and during early pregnancy will reduce the risk of certain birth defects. Foods with folic acid include dark leafy greens, like spinach and kale, orange juice and dried beans.

• **Drink plenty of water.** Water helps take all these important vitamins and minerals to your baby.

• If you are pregnant, do not eat undercooked or raw meats, chicken, seafood or eggs.

• Try to limit or avoid caffeine from coffee and tea. Caffeine can increase the risk of miscarriage.

• Do not drink alcohol. Drinking alcohol can be harmful to your baby.

Seeing a doctor regularly during your pregnancy is important for you and your baby.
Nutrition for your children under 3 years old

- Children have small stomachs and can only eat small amounts of food at one time. Feed your children under the age of 3 years, three meals a day with 2 to 3 small snacks in between.

- Feed your children at the same time every day. This will help set a routine and train your children to develop good eating habits.

- Give your children a variety of foods, including milk, fruits, vegetables, breads and whole grains, beans and meat.

- Introduce one new food at a time. If your child does not like the food, try it again at another time and serve it in a different form. It can take more than ten times before a small child will like a food.

- Children under the age of 3 should drink 1 ½ cups of whole milk per day.

- Cut whole fruit or vegetables into small pieces.

Each day feed your children different colors of food – red, orange/yellow, green, blue/purple, white and brown – to stay healthy.
Nutrition labels tell you important information about your food. Reading these labels carefully will help you to make the right choices to keep you and your family healthy.

### Nutrition Facts for potato chips

**Serving Size:** 15 chips makes one serving.

**Calories:** 1 serving or 15 chips gives you 150 calories. Your body needs about 2,000 calories each day.

**Fats:** Fat is important for your body, but too much fat can be harmful.

Unsaturated fats are better for your body than Saturated or Trans fat. Avoid eating foods with Trans fat.

**Sodium:** Sodium is another word for salt.

**Vitamins and Minerals:** These chips do not give your body very many vitamins and minerals that your body needs.

**Ingredients:** This is where you can find out what is in your food. Items are listed from the largest to the smallest quantity.

**Servings per container:**

This bag of chips has 2 and a half servings.

% Daily Value: 1 serving or 15 chips gives you 16% of the daily suggested fat for your body to stay healthy. The whole bag of chips gives you 38% of the daily suggested fat.

### Nutrition Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
<th>1 oz whole bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calories from Fat</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fat</td>
<td>10g, 25g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>1g, 3g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans Fat</td>
<td>0g, 0g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polyunsaturated Fat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monounsaturated Fat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cholesterol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>180mg, 420mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sugars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin E</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin B6</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

**INGREDIENTS:** Potatoes, Sunflower Oil and/or Corn Oil, and Salt.

**HELPFUL HINT!**

5% is low
20% is high

**GET LESS!**

**GET MORE!**

**IMPORTANT:** The amount of calories you need depends on your age, gender, body size and energy level. Ask your doctor.
HEALTHY DRINKS

• What your children drink can affect their health. Your children should have more water than any other drink during the day.

• Milk is a good source of calcium, which is needed for strong bones and teeth. Children under the age of 2 should drink whole milk. Children ages 3 and older should drink fat-free or low-fat milk.

• Drinking small amounts of 100% fruit juice helps you to get important vitamins.

• Many drinks such as soda, sports drinks and fruit drinks contain a lot of added sugar. These drinks provide calories without nutrients, which can lead to weight gain and dental problems.

• Soda contains caffeine, which can cause nervousness and restlessness in children and adults.

See how many teaspoons of added sugar are in one cup (8 ounces) of different drinks:

- **Soda**: 6 teaspoons added sugar
- **Milk**: 0 teaspoons added sugar
- **Fruit Punch**: 7 teaspoons added sugar
- **Water**: 0 teaspoons added sugar
FAST FOOD

- To stay healthy, eat home-cooked meals and limit the amount of fast food you and your children eat.

- Fast foods are sold at restaurants, such as McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

- Grocery stores also sell fast food at the deli sections or in readily packaged and frozen food sections.

- Fast foods have more calories and higher amounts of fat, sugar and salt that can be harmful to your health.

- Eating too much fast food can cause:
  - Quick weight gains that are unhealthy
  - Obesity, especially in young children
  - High blood pressure and other risks for heart disease
Try not to eat fast food more than once a week.

When you have to eat fast food, make these smart choices:

• Order small size portions.

• The kid's menu offers smaller portions that are better for your children.

• Order a single regular hamburger instead of a burger with two or three meat pieces.

• Choose grilled, baked and roasted options before fried and crispy foods.

• Order skinless chicken when possible.

• Order salads without dressing or with low-fat dressing.

• Eat fruit salad for dessert instead of ice cream or milkshakes.

• Drink water, fat-free or low-fat milk instead of soda.

**BIG PORTION:**

- Double cheeseburger: 740 calories, 42 grams fat
- Large soda: 310 calories, 86 grams sugar
- Large French fries: 500 calories, 25 grams fat

**High fat option 67 grams of fat**

**SMALL PORTION:**

- Cheeseburger: 300 calories, 12 grams fat
- Small soda: 150 calories, 40 grams sugar
- Small French fries: 30 calories, 11 grams fat

**Lower fat option 23 grams of fat**
SMART SNACKING

• Enjoy a small snack in between meals only when you are hungry.
• Set aside a healthy snack for your children to enjoy when they get home from school.
• Don’t snack right before going to bed. Your food needs time to digest while you are still awake.
• Avoid snacking on chips, candy, and cookies.
• Eat low-fat, low-salt, and low-sugar snacks, such as:
  > Carrots and other vegetables
  > Fruits: apples, bananas, oranges, pears
  > Low-salt crackers with cheese
  > Nuts
  > Low-fat yogurt (try stirring in fresh or frozen fruit)
  > A glass of low-fat milk

Fun Snacks for Children

1) Wash and cut celery into sticks.
2) Spread peanut butter into each celery stick.
3) Top with a few raisins and enjoy!

You can also try apple slices and bananas with peanut butter.