

11-13

years old

for parents

Name _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Date _____

BMI _____ percentile _____ %

Fueling your thoughts

- Are you concerned about your child's weight?
- Are you concerned with your child's eating habits or level of physical activity?
- Do you and your child eat breakfast?
- How many meals do you eat as a family each week? How many are from fast food, take out, etc?
- What beverages do you buy for the family?
- How much time does your child watch TV, play on the computer, play videogames, or text daily?
- What do you do as a family to stay active?

Nutrition Advice

By providing nutritious foods to your child you help him or her improve strength, energy, attention span and the ability to keep up with friends.

Breakfast ~ Eating breakfast every day helps children do well in school and improves overall health.

Lunch ~ Buying school meals can be nutritious; review school menus with your child and plan ahead. When packing lunches it is important to include at least 4 out of the 5 food groups (low-fat/fat-free dairy foods, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein).

Snacks ~ Eat only when hungry. Stock up on ready-to-eat vegetables, fruit, low fat cheese, yogurt, milk, lean meats, whole grain crackers, bread, low sugar cereal or nuts.

Dinner ~ Eat as many meals as possible as a family at the dinner table. Be sure to slow down, enjoy, and turn off the TV.

Eating Out ~ Keep portion sizes small or share meals (don't "super size").

- Choose fruit or salad instead of French fries, milk instead of pop, baked or broiled instead of fried.
- Limit dressings and mayonnaise; ask for them on the side or choose low fat options.

Beverages -Think your Drink!

- The best choices are water, low fat (1%) or nonfat (skim) milk and 100% fruit juice (limit fruit juice to 1 cup or 8 oz. serving per day).

- Limit sweetened beverages such as soft drinks, punch, juice drinks, energy drinks and caffeine containing beverages.
- Regular intake of too much caffeine can lead to trouble sleeping, rapid heartrate, anxiety, poor attention span, headaches or shakiness.

Your main job as a parent is to be sure that your child is served a variety of healthy foods (fruits, vegetables, milk, yogurt, cheese, whole grains, meat, poultry, fish & eggs).

Be a good role model for your kids by eating and choosing healthy foods. Visit www.mypyramid.gov for more information.

Be Active

- Make sure you and your kids are active 60 minutes every day. Focus on FUN, including both organized and free play.
- Count time spent doing chores: car washing, walking the dog, dusting, sweeping, pulling weeds, raking leaves or shoveling snow.
- Involve the whole family in physical activity because you are role models!
- "Screen time" (computers, TV, gaming systems, texting, etc) should be limited to 2 hours or less daily (pre-plan how "screen time" will be used).
- Screens may be monitored easily if moved to a common area; keep them out of child's bedroom.
- Make sure your child is sleeping at least 10-11 hours per night. Keeping regular bed time is critical to good health and weight maintenance.
- If you have concerns about your child's weight, physical activity or eating behaviors, ask your healthcare provider.



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is Worth a Pound