



# Bright Futures Parent Handout

## 15 to 17 Year Visits

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

### Your Growing and Changing Teen

PHYSICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Help your teen visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Encourage your teen to protect her hearing at work, home, and concerts.
- Keep a variety of healthy foods at home.
- Help your teen get enough calcium.
- Encourage 1 hour of vigorous physical activity a day.
- Praise your teen when he does something well, not just when he looks good.

### Healthy Behavior Choices

RISK REDUCTION

- Talk with your teen about your values and your expectations on drinking, drug use, tobacco use, driving, and sex.
- Be there for your teen when she needs support or help in making healthy decision about her sexual behavior.
- Support safe activities at school and in the community.
- Praise your teen for healthy decisions about sex, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

### Violence and Injuries

VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

- Do not tolerate drinking and driving.
- Insist that seat belts be used by everyone.
- Set expectations for safe driving.
  - Limit the number of friends in the car, nighttime driving, and distractions.
- Never allow physical harm of yourself, your teen, or others at home or school.
- Remove guns from your home. If you must keep a gun in your home, make sure it is unloaded and locked with ammunition locked in a separate place.
- Teach your teen how to deal with conflict without using violence.
- Make sure your teen understands that healthy dating relationships are built on respect and that saying “no” is OK.

### Feelings and Family

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- Set aside time to be with your teen and really listen to his hopes and concerns.
- Support your teen as he figures out ways to deal with stress.
- Support your teen in solving problems and making decisions.
- If you are concerned that your teen is sad, depressed, nervous, irritable, hopeless, or angry, talk with me.

### School and Friends

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC COMPETENCE

- Praise positive efforts and success in school and other activities.
- Encourage reading.
- Help your teen find new activities she enjoys.
- Encourage your teen to help others in the community.
- Help your teen find and be a part of positive after-school activities and sports.
- Encourage healthy friendships and fun, safe things to do with friends.
- Know your teen's friends and their parents, where your teen is, and what he is doing at all times.
- Check in with your teen's teacher about her grades on tests.
  - Attend back-to-school events if possible.
  - Attend parent-teacher conferences if possible.



## American Academy of Pediatrics



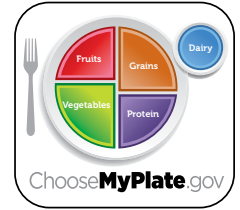
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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**10 tips**  
Nutrition  
Education Series



# eat smart and be active as you grow



## 10 healthy tips for teen girls

**Young girls, ages 10 to 19, have a lot of changes going on in their bodies.** Building healthier habits will help you—now as a growing teen—and later in life. Growing up means you are in charge of foods you eat and the time you spend being physically active every day.

### 1 build strong bones

A good diet and regular physical activity can build strong bones throughout your life. Choose fat-free or low-fat milk, cheeses, and yogurt to get the vitamin D and calcium your growing bones need. Strengthen your bones three times a week doing activities such as running, gymnastics, and skating.



### 2 cut back on sweets

Cut back on sugary drinks. Many 12-ounce cans of soda have 10 teaspoons of sugar in them. Drink water when you are thirsty. Sipping water and cutting back on cakes, candies, and sweets helps to maintain a healthy weight.

### 3 power up with whole grain

Fuel your body with nutrient-packed whole-grain foods. Make sure that at least half your grain foods are whole grains such as brown rice, whole-wheat breads, and popcorn.



### 4 choose vegetables rich in color

Brighten your plate with vegetables that are red, orange, or dark green. Try acorn squash, cherry tomatoes, or sweet potatoes. Spinach and beans also provide vitamins like folate and minerals like potassium that are essential for healthy growth.



### 5 check Nutrition Facts labels for iron

Read Nutrition Facts labels to find foods containing iron. Most protein foods like meat, poultry, eggs, and beans have iron, and so do fortified breakfast cereals and breads.

### 6 be a healthy role model

Encourage your friends to practice healthier habits. Share what you do to work through challenges. Keep your computer and TV time to less than 2 hours a day (unless it's school work).

### 7 try something new

Keep healthy eating fun by picking out new foods you've never tried before like lentils, mango, quinoa, or kale.

### 8 make moving part of every event

Being active makes everyone feel good. Aim for 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Move your body often. Dancing, playing active games, walking to school with friends, swimming, and biking are only a few fun ways to be active. Also, try activities that target the muscles in your arms and legs.



### 9 include all food groups daily

Use MyPlate as your guide to include all food groups each day. Learn more at [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov).

### 10 everyone has different needs

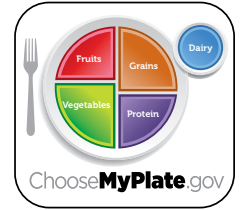
Get nutrition information based on your age, gender, height, weight, and physical activity level. Use SuperTracker to find your calorie level, choose the foods you need, and track progress toward your goals. Learn more at [www.SuperTracker.usda.gov](http://www.SuperTracker.usda.gov).

**SuperTracker**

**10 tips**  
Nutrition  
Education Series



# choose the foods you need to grow



## 10 tips for teen guys

**Feed your growing body by making better food choices today as a teen and as you continue to grow into your twenties.** Make time to be physically active every day to help you be fit and healthy as you grow.

### 1 get over the idea of magic foods

There are no magic foods to eat for good health. Teen guys need to eat foods such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, protein foods, and fat-free or low-fat dairy foods. Choose protein foods like unsalted nuts, beans, lean meats, and fish. SuperTracker.usda.gov will show if you are getting the nutrients you need for growth.



### 2 always hungry?

Whole grains that provide fiber can give you a feeling of fullness and provide key nutrients. Choose half your grains as whole grains. Eat whole-wheat breads, pasta, and brown rice instead of white bread, rice, or other refined grains. Also, choose vegetables and fruits when you need to “fill-up.”

### 6 skip foods that can add unwanted pounds

Cut back on calories by limiting fatty meats like ribs, bacon, and hot dogs. Some foods are just occasional treats like pizza, cakes, cookies, candies, and ice cream. Check out the calorie content of sugary drinks by reading the Nutrition Facts label. Many 12-ounce sodas contain 10 teaspoons of sugar.

### 7 learn how much food you need

Teen guys may need more food than most adults, teen girls, and little kids. Go to [www.SuperTracker.usda.gov](http://www.SuperTracker.usda.gov). It shows how much food you need based on your age, height, weight, and activity level. It also tracks progress towards fitness goals.



### 3 keep water handy

Water is a better option than many other drink choices. Keep a water bottle in your backpack and at your desk to satisfy your thirst. Skip soda, fruit drinks, and energy and sports drinks. They are sugar-sweetened and have few nutrients.



### 8 check Nutrition Facts labels

To grow, your body needs vitamins and minerals. Calcium and vitamin D are especially important for your growing bones. Read Nutrition Facts labels for calcium. Dairy foods provide the minerals your bones need to grow.

### 4 make a list of favorite foods

Like green apples more than red apples? Ask your family food shopper to buy quick-to-eat foods for the fridge like mini-carrots, apples, oranges, low-fat cheese slices, or yogurt. And also try dried fruit; unsalted nuts; whole-grain breads, cereal, and crackers; and popcorn.

### 9 strengthen your muscles

Work on strengthening and aerobic activities. Work out at least 10 minutes at a time to see a better you. However, you need to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.



### 5 start cooking often

Get over being hungry by fixing your own snacks and meals. Learn to make vegetable omelets, bean quesadillas, or a batch of spaghetti. Prepare your own food so you can make healthier meals and snacks. Microwaving frozen pizzas doesn't count as home cooking.



### 10 fill your plate like MyPlate

Go to [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov) for more easy tips and science-based nutrition from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans ([www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov)).