

We Can! Try Tips To Eat Well and Move More

Choose to take small steps today! Try these tips to eat well and move more and see how easy taking small steps toward a healthier life can be.

Eating Well (ENERGY IN)

- Drink water before a meal.
- Eat half your dessert, or choose fruit as dessert.
- Avoid food portions larger than your fist.
- Drink diet soda instead of regular soda.
- Eat off smaller plates.
- Don't eat late at night.
- Skip buffets.
- Grill, steam, or bake instead of frying.
- Share an entree with a friend.
- Eat before grocery shopping.
- Choose a checkout line without a candy display.
- Make a grocery list before you shop.
- Drink water or low-fat milk over soda and other sugary drinks.
- Flavor foods with herbs, spices, and other low-fat seasonings.
- Keep to a regular eating schedule.
- Eat before you get too hungry.
- Don't skip breakfast.
- Stop eating when you are full.
- Snack on fruits and vegetables.
- Top your favorite cereal with apples or bananas.
- Include several servings of whole-grain foods daily.
- If main dishes are too big, choose an appetizer or a side dish instead.
- Ask for salad dressing “on the side.”
- Don't take seconds.
- Try a green salad instead of fries.
- Eat sweet foods in small amounts.
- Cut back on added fats or oils in cooking or spreads.
- Cut high-calorie foods like cheese and chocolate into small pieces and only eat a few pieces.
- Use fat-free or low-fat sour cream, mayo, sauces, dressings, and other condiments.
- Replace sugar-sweetened beverages with water and add a twist of lemon or lime.
- Every time you eat a meal, sit down, chew slowly, and pay attention to flavors and textures.
- Try a new fruit or vegetable (ever had jicama, plantain, bok choy, star fruit, or papaya?)
- Instead of eating out, bring a healthy, low-calorie lunch to work.
- Ask your sweetie to bring you fruit or flowers instead of chocolate.

Moving More (ENERGY OUT)

- Walk your children to school.
- Take a family walk after dinner.
- Join an exercise group and enroll your children in community sports teams or lessons.
- Replace a Sunday drive with a Sunday walk.
- Do yard work. Get your children to help rake, weed, plant, etc.
- Get off the bus a stop early and walk.
- Work around the house. Ask your children for help doing active chores.
- Walk the dog to the park.
- Go for a half-hour walk instead of watching TV.
- Pace the sidelines at kids' athletic games.
- Choose an activity that fits into your daily life. Being physically active with your family is a great way to spend time together.
- Park farther from the store and walk.
- Use an exercise video with your kids if the weather is bad.
- Avoid labor-saving devices, such as a remote control or electric mixers.
- Play with your kids 30 minutes a day.
- Dance to music. Play your favorite dance music for your children and have them play their favorites for you.
- Make a Saturday morning walk a family habit.
- Walk briskly in the mall.
- Choose activities you enjoy—you'll be more likely to stick with them. Ask children what activities they want to do.
- Explore new physical activities.
- Acknowledge your efforts with non-food related rewards, such as a family day at the park, lake, or zoo.
- Take the stairs instead of the escalator.
- Swim with your kids.
- Turn off the TV and play ball at the park.
- Take your dog on longer walks.
- When walking, go up the hills instead of around them.
- Use a family activity planner to make time each day for activity.
- Buy a set of hand weights and play a round of Simon Says with your kids—you do it with the weights, they do it without.

Source: Adapted from www.smallstep.gov