

Nutrition Nuggets

Food and Fitness for a Healthy Child

January 2018

Palmyra-Eagle Area School District



BEST BITES

Junior chef

Get your child excited about helping in the kitchen by letting her dress the part. Find a large white button-down shirt she can wear like a chef's outfit. Have her write her name on a mailing label ("Chef Suzy") and stick it on. Hand her a colorful spatula, and enjoy cooking together.



Swap parsnips for potatoes

Make "french fries" from parsnips, a root vegetable that's high in fiber and folate. Peel 2 lbs. parsnips, and cut into thick strips. Toss with 2 tbsp. olive oil, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt, and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper. Place on a baking sheet, and bake 10 minutes at 450°. Flip, and roast 10 minutes more.

DID YOU KNOW?

Swimming builds endurance, strengthens all muscle groups, and is easy on joints and bones. Encourage your youngster to swim year-round with trips to an indoor community pool. He might take swim lessons or sign up for a winter league. *Ideas:* Join him in the pool and swim together, race against each other, or play tag.

Just for fun



Q: What's green and bumpy and jumps every few seconds?

A: A pickle with hiccups.

Get healthier together!

Make eating better and getting fit a family affair this year. Being "in it together" can keep everyone motivated. Use these simple tips to get started.

Be a role model

Your youngster will copy your good and not-so-good behaviors. Telling him to eat an orange while you munch on potato chips sends a mixed message, as does using your tablet while encouraging him to go shoot baskets. A better approach? Ask him to help you cut apples for a snack, or suggest that you play basketball together.

Focus on variety

Instead of dieting or emphasizing foods to avoid, identify healthy foods to add to meals. Think: fresh fruits, crisp vegetables, beans and lentils, nuts, seeds, whole grains, and lean protein. This ensures you're not limiting nutrients your growing child needs. It also pushes less-nutritious foods off your plates.



Increase physical activity

Brainstorm regular family fitness ideas with your youngster, then put them on the calendar. You might try nightly after-dinner walks or Saturday morning bike rides. Move more during everyday activities, too. Park farther from your destination, take the stairs rather than the elevator, or shovel snow together. Before you know it, being more active will become a household habit. ♥

DIY supersized fun

Looking for some life-size entertainment for your child? Let her create a giant tic-tac-toe board!

Materials: old sheet, marker, duct tape, 10 old socks (5 of one color and 5 of another), dry beans, rubber bands

Help your youngster measure and draw a giant square on the sheet. Draw lines dividing the square into 9 equal boxes, and tape the sheet to the floor, or set it outside.

Make beanbags by filling socks with beans and sealing them shut with rubber bands.

Each player gets 5 same-color beanbags. Now take turns hopping into a square, dropping a beanbag, and hopping out. The first to get three in a row across, down, or diagonally wins. ♥

