10
tips
Nutrition Education Series


Based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

# Choose MyPlate 

Use MyPlate to build your healthy eating style and maintain it for a lifetime. Choose foods and beverages from each MyPlate food group. Make sure your choices are limited in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. Start with small changes to make healthier choices you can enjoy.

1Find your healthy eating style Creating a healthy style means regularly eating a variety of foods to get the nutrients and calories you need. MyPlate's tips help you create your own healthy eating solutions-"MyWins."

2Make half your plate fruits and vegetables Eating colorful fruits and vegetables is important because they provide vitamins and minerals and most are low in calories.

3Focus on whole fruits
Choose whole fruits-fresh, frozen, dried, or canned in 100\% juice. Enjoy fruit with meals, as snacks, or as a dessert.


4Vary your veggies Try adding fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables to salads, sides, and main dishes. Choose a variety of colorful vegetables prepared in healthful ways: steamed, sauteed,
 roasted, or raw.

5Make half your grains whole grains Look for whole grains listed first or second on the ingredients list-try oatmeal, popcorn, whole-grain bread, and brown rice. Limit grain-based desserts and snacks, such as cakes, cookies, and pastries.


6Move to low-fat or fat-free milk or yogurt Choose low-fat or fat-free milk, yogurt, and soy beverages (soymilk) to cut back on Dairy saturated fat. Replace sour cream, cream, and regular cheese with low-fat yogurt, milk, and cheese.

7Vary your protein routine Mix up your protein foods to include seafood, beans and peas, unsalted nuts and seeds, soy products, eggs, and lean meats Protein
0 and poultry. Try main dishes made with beans or seafood like tuna salad or bean chili.

8Drink and eat beverages and food with less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars
Use the Nutrition Facts label and ingredients list to limit items high in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. Choose vegetable oils instead of butter, and oil-based sauces and dips instead of ones with butter, cream, or cheese.

9Drink water instead of sugary drinks Water is calorie-free. Non-diet soda, energy or sports drinks, and other sugar-sweetened drinks contain a lot of calories from added sugars and have few nutrients.

10Everything you eat and drink matters The right mix of foods can help you be healthier now and into the future. Turn small changes into your "MyPlate, MyWins."

## MyPlate Food Groups

| Food Group | What Counts As... |
| :---: | :---: |
| Fruits <br> - Whole Fruit <br> - Fruit Juice | 1 cup of Fruit <br> - 1 cup fresh or canned fruit <br> - 1 cup $100 \%$ fruit juice <br> - 1/2 cup dried fruit |
| Vegetables <br> - Dark Green <br> - Red and Orange <br> - Beans and Peas <br> - Starchy <br> - Other | 1 cup of Vegetables <br> - 1 cup fresh or canned vegetables <br> - 1 cup $100 \%$ vegetable juice <br> - 2 cups leafy salad greens |
| Grains <br> - Whole Grains <br> - Refined Grains | 1 ounce of Grains <br> - 1 slice of bread (1 ounce) <br> - 1/2 cup cooked pasta, rice, or cereal <br> - 1 ounce uncooked pasta or rice <br> - 1 tortilla (6 inch diameter) <br> - 1 pancake ( 5 inch diameter) <br> - 1 ounce ready-to-eat cereal (about 1 cup cereal flakes) |
| Protein Foods <br> - Seafood <br> - Meat, Poultry, and Eggs <br> - Nuts, Seeds, and Soy | 1 ounce of Protein Foods <br> - 1 ounce lean meat, poultry, or seafood <br> - 1 egg <br> - 1 Tablespoon peanut butter <br> - 1/2 ounce nuts or seeds <br> - 1/4 cup cooked beans or peas |
| Dairy <br> - Milk and Yogurt <br> - Cheese | 1 cup of Dairy <br> - 1 cup milk <br> - 1 cup fortified soymilk (soy beverage) <br> - 1 cup yogurt <br> - 1 1/2 ounce natural cheese (e.g., Cheddar) |

Want your personal calorie and food group plan?
Check out the MyPlate Plan at www.ChooseMyPlate.gov/GetMyPlan.
For tips, visit www.ChooseMyPlate.gov/StartSimple.

Look around your kitchen. List as many items as you can for each section.

| Items to find: | What did I find? |
| :--- | :--- |
| Find dairy items |  |
| Find items made from grains |  |
| Find fruits with different colors |  |
| Find different varieties of protein |  |
| Find vegetable items |  |
| What kind of meat do you see in the <br> fridge/freezer? |  |
| Find something you like to eat |  |
| Find a fruit or vegetable that begins with <br> parent(s)/guardian likes to eat <br> the letter "C" |  |

## "Fill MyPlate" Activity <br> 

The MyPlate diagram serves as a way to eat healthy while enjoying food from each of the five food groups. Remember to follow the recommended serving sizes for each food group as much as possible. The table below are the recommended serving sizes for each food group on a given day.

Activity: From the MyPlate Food Hunt activity, write down the foods you found in the selected food group table.

| Fruits <br> $1-2$ servings per day | Vegetables <br> $1-3$ servings per day | Grains <br> $3-8$ ounces per day | Protein <br> $2-6$ ounces per day | Dairy <br> $2-3$ servings per day |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Why Choose MyPlate? Choose MyPlate provides nutrient value through the five food groups to support growth and good health.

## Reflection:

- Do any of the food groups listed above have empty spaces? If so, fill in something you could have eaten from this food group.
- Did you notice that half of your answers should be filled with fruits and vegetable?

