

Dear Family,

“Be healthy!” or “Make healthy choices!” or “No, you can’t eat that for breakfast because it is not healthy.” How many times a day do we say these types of phrases to our children? The messages are important, but for children to really know why we are giving this guidance, they have to understand what being healthy actually means. In school, we have been learning what being healthy means through class discussion, learning activities, and materials as a part of a program called **Healthy Steps for Healthy Lives™** brought to us by Nestlé and the National Education Association Health Information Network.

With this program, your child is learning to **THINK Healthy** because a common understanding of what being healthy means will provide a solid foundation for your child to utilize health-enhancing behaviors. **Ask your child to tell you what they think being healthy means. Complete the homework activity on page 3-4 and return page 4 to school tomorrow.** When it comes to being healthy, you are the most significant role model for your child. When you ask your child to tell you what being healthy means, here are some examples of what you might hear:

- Being healthy is when you do things that are good for your body.
- Being healthy is when you help your body grow.
- Being healthy is when you make good choices about how you live.
- Being healthy is when you make good choices about what you eat and what you do with your body.

Discuss what being healthy means to your family. Set a goal to change one family behavior in order to be healthy. Remember, it can take a few weeks of practice (and patience) before the behavior or routine is fully changed.

### Homework: **THINK Healthy Sort**

- Step 1: Cut out the phrases on page 3.
- Step 2: Read each phrase and discuss if it is something that is an “Always Healthy”, “Sometimes Healthy”, or “Not Healthy” choice.
- Step 3: Sort the cards by gluing them onto the chart on page 4.
- Step 4: Have a family member initial page 4 and return it to school tomorrow.



### Parent to Parent: Easy tips and ideas from fellow parents

One simple thing you can do to keep healthy decision making at the forefront is to make yourself (and your family) visual reminders. Keep items like notes from the school about healthy snacks visible. Create charts together as a family listing healthy steps for tasks like brushing your teeth. Tape these resources (using tape that is not damaging to finish, such as painter's tape) in a location where you are likely to need the encouragement, such as the inside surface of the kitchen cabinet door, medicine cabinet, or linen closet. Posting these items will not only help remind you and your family to make healthy choices, but also build knowledge about being healthy by talking about it, too.

#### Find out more:

- [www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps](http://www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps)
- [www.neahin.org/healthysteps](http://www.neahin.org/healthysteps)
- [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)
- [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)
- [www.healthiergeneration.org/parents](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/parents)
- [www.bnetsavvy.org](http://www.bnetsavvy.org)
- [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)



### Cut.

Brushing your teeth	Visiting your doctor for a check-up	Going to bed on time every night
Eating an apple for a snack	Drinking soda at every meal	Eating cake for a snack every day
Drinking low-fat milk with dinner	Staying up too late	Playing a sport
Drinking water before, during, and after a soccer game	Playing video games all day on a weekend	Drinking 100% no sugar added juice
Washing your hands before eating	Walking the dog	Watching TV all afternoon
Riding a bike without a helmet	Wearing sunscreen at the pool	Using the computer without your parents' permission
Eating ice cream for dessert	Having a family movie night	Wearing a seat belt while riding in a car



# Healthy Family Connections

## Homework Packet 1

WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT BEING HEALTHY!

### Sort and glue.

Always Healthy	Sometimes Healthy	Not Healthy

Family Member Initials

**\*Please return this page to school.**



Dear Family,

“You are what you eat.” How many times have we heard that familiar phrase? We all know the importance of good nutrition. Your child’s growing brain and body need healthy food. The question is how we can use this knowledge every day to guide our choices (and our children’s choices) about what to eat. A good place to start is to follow the United States Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To help communicate key messages and actions from the dietary guidelines, USDA has released a new generation food icon, MyPlate. The guidelines provide an evidenced-based plan for healthy eating and physical activity.

In school, we have been learning about nutrition (and the dietary guidelines) through class discussion, learning activities, and materials as part of a program called **Healthy Steps for Healthy Lives™** brought to us by Nestlé and the National Education Association Health Information Network. With this program, your child is learning to **EAT Healthy. Ask your child to tell you about MyPlate.** MyPlate illustrates the five food groups using a familiar mealtime visual, a place setting. The new MyPlate icon emphasizes the fruit, vegetable, grains, protein and dairy food groups. **Complete the homework activity on pages 3-5 and return page 5 to school tomorrow.**

This is what you might hear your child say about MyPlate.

### Build a healthy plate

Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl.

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Switch to skim or 1% milk.
- Make at least half your grains whole.
- Vary your protein food choices.

### Cut Back On Foods High In Solid Fats, Added Sugars, And Salt

Many people eat foods with too much solid fats, added sugars, and salt (sodium). Foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, and lean protein foods contain the nutrients you need without too many calories.

- Added sugars and fats load foods with extra calories you don’t need.
- Choose foods and drinks with little or no added sugars.
- Don’t make treat foods an everyday choice. Limit sweet treats to special occasions.
- Compare sodium in foods like soup, bread, and frozen meals and choose the foods with lower numbers.
- Too much sodium may increase your blood pressure.

### Eat The Right Amount Of Food For You

A healthy meal starts with more vegetables and fruits and smaller portions of proteins and grains. Think about how you can adjust the portions on your plate to get more of what you need.

- Avoid oversized portions.
- Everyone has a personal calorie limit.
- The right amount of food for you depends on factors about you – such as your age and physical activity level.
- Use the USDA SuperTracker to get your personal daily intake amounts at [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov).





### Homework: **EAT Healthy Card Game, “Yummy!”**

- Step 1: Cut the food cards on page 3.
- Step 2: Read the Yummy! card game directions on page 4.
- Step 3: Play Yummy! with a family member.
- Step 4: Complete page 5.
- Step 5: Have a family member initial page 5 and return it to school tomorrow.
- Step 6: Keep the cards in a bag or envelope at home and play again.

### Parent to Parent: **Easy tips and ideas from fellow parents**

Your child needs healthy snacks to get enough nutrition every day. Try to plan snacks based on the five food groups in order to use snacking as an opportunity to get the daily recommended servings of each group. Choose snacks that you can make together. This will give you a chance to talk about healthy choices. Save snacks with added sugars and fats for special occasions. Below are some snacking ideas based on the five food groups. Stock your fridge and pantry with these items and give your child the choice at snack time. Keep plastic bags handy to take these healthy combos with you when you are on the go.

#### Grain Gusto

- Rice cakes with peanut butter
- Whole grain oat toast sprinkled with cinnamon
- Graham crackers with cottage cheese
- Cereals low in sugar
- Toasted pita triangles with cheese

#### Veggie Vigor

- Baby carrots with yogurt dip
- Celery with peanut butter and raisins
- Bell pepper slices with hummus
- Cherry tomatoes with sliced cheese
- Veggie juice

#### Fruit Fuel

- Apple slices with cinnamon and yogurt/honey dip
- Bananas rolled in yogurt and granola
- Fruit salad
- 100% fruit juice frozen ice pops
- Fruit skewers with yogurt dip

#### Protein Power

- Bean dip with corn chips
- Whole grain crackers with peanut butter
- Cereal with milk and nuts
- Hummus with pita triangles
- String cheese

#### Dairy Delights

- Cold milk (low-fat)
- Hot chocolate (made with low-fat milk)
- Chocolate milk (low-fat) frozen ice pops
- Yogurt smoothies
- Whole grain English muffin with melted sliced cheese


























# Healthy Family Connections

## Homework Packet 2

WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT EATING HEALTHY!

**Cut.**

<p>Apple sauce</p>  <p>Fruit Group</p>	<p>Oranges</p>  <p>Fruit Group</p>	<p>Grapes</p>  <p>Fruit Group</p>	<p>Bananas</p>  <p>Fruit Group</p>	<p>Strawberries</p>  <p>Fruit Group</p>
<p>Corn</p>  <p>Vegetable Group</p>	<p>Carrots</p>  <p>Vegetable Group</p>	<p>Spinach</p>  <p>Vegetable Group</p>	<p>Broccoli</p>  <p>Vegetable Group</p>	<p>Green beans</p>  <p>Vegetable Group</p>
<p>Breakfast cereal</p>  <p>Grains Group</p>	<p>Waffles</p>  <p>Grains Group</p>	<p>Bread</p>  <p>Grains Group</p>	<p>Popcorn</p>  <p>Grains Group</p>	<p>Oatmeal</p>  <p>Grains Group</p>
<p>Low-fat milk</p>  <p>Dairy Group</p>	<p>Low-fat chocolate milk</p>  <p>Dairy Group</p>	<p>Cheddar cheese</p>  <p>Dairy Group</p>	<p>Swiss cheese</p>  <p>Dairy Group</p>	<p>Low-fat yogurt</p>  <p>Dairy Group</p>
<p>Kidney beans</p>  <p>Protein Foods Group</p>	<p>Salmon</p>  <p>Protein Foods Group</p>	<p>Egg</p>  <p>Protein Foods Group</p>	<p>Nuts</p>  <p>Protein Foods Group</p>	<p>Turkey</p>  <p>Protein Foods Group</p>

# Play!

## Play Yummy!

The goal of the game is to be the first person to have a five-card hand with one food from each food group.

- Gather 2 – 4 players.
- Shuffle the food cards.
- Deal five food cards to each player.
- Place the remaining cards in a pile face down and spread around between the players.
- The person to the right of the dealer begins to play.
- When it is your turn, you can ask one other player for a food group that you need (Example: Say, “Do you have any foods from the Grains Group?”)
- If the person does have the card that you are asking for, they must give you their card and draw a new card from the pile to add to their hand (this does not count as their turn). You must discard one card that you do not need by placing it face down in the pile. You must have only five cards in your hand at a time.
- If the person does not have the card that you are asking for, then you must pick a card from the pile. Decide if you want to keep it or not. Discard a card that you do not need. You must have only five cards in your hand at a time.

### Find out more:

- [www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps](http://www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps)
- [www.neahin.org/healthysteps](http://www.neahin.org/healthysteps)
- [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)
- [www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org)
- [www.nationaldairyCouncil.org/childnutrition/Pages/ChildNutritionHome.aspx](http://www.nationaldairyCouncil.org/childnutrition/Pages/ChildNutritionHome.aspx)
- [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)
- [www.healthiergeneration.org/parents](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/parents)
- [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org)
- [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

- When a person discards, it is the next person’s turn. Play continues to the right. The first person to have a hand with a food card from each food group, a full plate, can lay the hand down and say, “Yummy!” That person is the winner! Feel free to play again (and enjoy some healthy snacks from the food groups while playing!)

### Free online educational games and activities for your children to learn more:

- [www.foodchamps.org/](http://www.foodchamps.org/)
- [www.fns.usda.gov/multimedia/Games/Blastoff/BlastOff\\_Game.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/multimedia/Games/Blastoff/BlastOff_Game.html)





# Healthy Family Connections

## Homework Packet 2

WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT EATING HEALTHY!

### Record:

Draw the five foods on the cards in the "winning hand".

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Which food from the "winning hand" do you like the most?

What food group is it in? (circle)

Fruits      Vegetables      Grains      Dairy      Protein

It is important to eat foods from each food group every single day. Pick a food group that your family needs to eat more of each day. Set a goal for trying new foods and eating more foods from this group.

Record your goal:

Family Member Initials

\*Please return this page to school.



Dear Family,

Kids are on the move! How much time a day does your child spend in motion? It is recommended that children are physically active for a minimum of one hour (60 minutes) every day. Children gain physical and mental health benefits from daily physical activity. Physical activity is bodily movement. Most of the recommended 60 minutes a day can be made up of daily tasks such as walking our dogs or raking leaves. Some of the 60 minutes a day should be spent on more vigorous activity. It is also recommended that children avoid prolonged periods of inactivity (sedentary activities). In school, we have been learning about physical activity through class discussion, learning activities, and materials as part of a program called **Healthy Steps for Healthy Lives™** brought to us by Nestlé and the National Education Association Health Information Network.

With this program, your child is learning to **MOVE Healthy. Ask your child to tell you the difference between being sedentary and active.** Every age group needs to be physically active and avoid being sedentary, so combine your family time with your moving time. If you are physically active every day, your child will be too. The most important thing you can do to encourage your family to keep moving is to do activities that you enjoy, have fun, and make them memorable. Talk about some of the ways that your family enjoys being active together. **Complete the homework activity on page 2 and return it to school tomorrow.**

### Homework: MOVE Healthy Graph

- Step 1: Follow the directions and complete the graph on page 2.
- Step 2: Answer the questions about the graph at the bottom of page 2.
- Step 3: Have a family member initial page 2.

#### Find out more:

- [www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps](http://www.nestleusa.com/healthysteps)
- [www.neahin.org/healthysteps](http://www.neahin.org/healthysteps)
- [www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/children.html](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/children.html)
- [www.nflrush.com/play60/ways-to-play](http://www.nflrush.com/play60/ways-to-play)
- [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/index.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/index.htm)
- [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

#### Parent to Parent: Easy tips and ideas from fellow parents

How many times have you been waiting somewhere with your child and had nothing to do? Maybe it was waiting at the bus stop or for your turn to check out at the store. This simple game of Animal Aerobics will help the time go by and also get your child moving. Call out a simple action (e.g., hop, run in place, skip in place, arm circles, or jumping jacks) and the name of an animal (e.g., bear, cheetah, monkey, or snake). Have your child pretend to be the animal while doing the movement at the same time. Continue to give new combinations and this game can go on for as long as you need it to. Your child will have tons of fun and 15 minutes of activity easily accumulated. Make sure you play too. The best part is the laugh you will get from seeing your child (or yourself) pretending to be a snake using a hula hoop.

# Healthy Family Connections

## Homework Packet 3

WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE!

### Color

**Directions:** Ask each family member which physical activity listed below is their favorite. For each person that you ask, color one box in the column for the activity that they choose.

Taking a walk	Swimming	Running	Riding a bike

### Record

- How many people picked walking as their favorite? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people picked swimming as their favorite? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people picked running as their favorite? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people picked riding a bike as their favorite? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which activity did your family pick the most? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which activity did your family pick the least? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which activity did your family pick more? (circle one)  
**SWIMMING**                      **WALKING**
- Were any activities picked by the same number of people in your family?  
 (circle one) **YES** **NO**
- List some other activities that your family enjoys doing together:

**Family Member Initials**

**\*Please return this page to school.**

