



# How On-Installation Eateries May Support 5210 Healthy Military Children

5210 Healthy Military Children is a Military-wide plan to improve child health. It spreads a common message throughout children's communities: where families work, live, and play. The message represents four healthy behaviors children should achieve each day:



**5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables**

**2 or fewer hours of recreational screen time<sup>+</sup>**

**1 or more hours of physical activity**

**0 sweetened beverages**

<sup>+</sup> review guidelines on parenting strategies to ensure quality screen time (AAP, 2015)

On-installation eateries are components of the Military food environment to which children may be exposed; therefore, it is important that Military families have information and skills to make the best choices at these locations. The resources assembled in this toolkit are designed to support the patrons of on-installation eateries in making healthy eating and drinking decisions.

The following materials are available for on-installation eateries:

1. **Tips At On-Installation Eateries handout** – targets on-installation eatery patrons and provides them with restaurant-specific tips to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and decrease sweetened beverage consumption.
2. **Tips At On-Installation Eateries posters** – includes enlarged versions of the Tips At On-Installation Eateries handout that are available in two sizes (27" x 40" and 38" x 56") to hang in highly visible locations.
3. **Definitions & Recommendations handout** – explains the 5210 message and its research basis.

We recommend hanging the poster in highly visible locations at or near on-installation eateries and placing the handouts in high-traffic areas, such as at cash registers, on dining trays, and on dining tables. Digital versions are available and may be inserted into newsletters and uploaded to websites and via social media.

For more information, visit the Penn State Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness online at [5210.healthymilitarychildren.psu.edu](http://5210.healthymilitarychildren.psu.edu) or call 1-877-382-9185. We will be happy to answer your questions!



*This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Family Policy, Children and Youth, U.S. Department of Defense under Award No. 2010-48709-21867 developed in collaboration with The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State University. 5210 Healthy Military Children is adapted from Let's Go! [www.letsqo.org](http://www.letsqo.org).*



## 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables

Fruits and vegetables are important additions to a healthy lifestyle! They provide a lot of nutrients, water, fiber, and phytochemicals that keep your body healthy and help prevent cancer, heart disease, and other diseases. Plus, they're a tasty way to fill up without adding a lot of calories to your diet – so dig in!

- It may be difficult to find fruits and vegetables at snack bars, food courts, chain restaurants, and other on-installation eateries – consider giving your patronage to the locations that support your healthy lifestyle!
- When you can, opt for apples slices, the “vegetable of the day,” or a side salad instead of fries or chips.
- When healthy options are not available, keep in mind that your overall diet is what is important – commit to eating and serving your family a healthy amount of vegetables and fruits each day so you can enjoy occasions when you're out and fruits and vegetables are *not* available.

## 2 or fewer hours of recreational screen time<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup>review guidelines on parenting strategies to ensure quality screen time (AAP, 2015)

Screen time is free time spent in front of screens – like televisions, video games, and the internet. It is possible to get enough physical activity and still engage in an unhealthy amount of screen time – so find other fun ways to spend your free time with friends and family!

- Turn off televisions and put away cell phones during meals and enjoy spending time with friends or family.
- Work with your family or friends to identify a variety of enjoyable activities that do not involve screens. Encourage these activities during leisure time and serve as a role model.
- Make televisions, video games, and the internet less convenient to use during free time so that healthier choices are easier to make.

## 1 or more hours of physical activity

Moving your body is a great way to burn calories, improve your mood, boost your energy, prevent cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and help you sleep better at night – plus, it can be a lot of fun! Look for activities you can enjoy with your family or friends so everyone can reap the benefits and help keep one another on track!

- Use activities instead of food as incentives or to socialize – a trip to the park, sledding hill, laser tag arena, skating rink, batting cage, or community pool can be a great alternative to the ice cream shop to chat with friends or celebrate your child's accomplishments.
- Walk or bike with your family or friends to get where you're going.
- Set up activity dates with like-minded friends or sign up for a charity walk – if you're accountable to someone else you may be more likely to stay active.

## 0 sweetened beverages

It is important to drink fluids to stay healthy, but sweetened beverages add extra sugar and calories to the diet. Watch out for drinks with the following ingredients: sugar, honey, sweetener, syrup (e.g., corn syrup, brown rice syrup), and/or ingredients ending in “ose” (e.g., glucose, dextrose).

- Make water the norm for quenching thirst – drink water when you are thirsty and offer water to thirsty children.
- Nonfat and 1% milk and 100% fruit and vegetable juices contain beneficial nutrients and calories; they are healthy foods that promote a nutritious diet; they are not beverages to drink when thirsty.
- Consider limiting your consumption of artificially sweetened beverages, like diet sodas.

Contact the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at 1-877-382-9185 or [www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu](http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu) for help identifying programs and resources targeting nutrition, physical activity, and screen time!

## References

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. (2013). Position of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Total diet approach to healthy eating. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 113(2), 307-317.
- American Academy of Pediatrics. (2013). Policy statement: Use and misuse of fruit juice in pediatrics. *Pediatrics*, 107(5), 1210-1213.
- Brown, A., Shifrin, D.L., & Hill, D.L. (2015). Beyond turn it off: How to advise families on media use. *American Academy of Pediatric News*, 36(10), 1-1.
- Gortmaker, S., Long, M., & Wang, Y. C. (2009). *The negative impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on children's health*. Retrieved from <http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research/2009/11/the-negative-impact-of-sugar-sweetened-beverages-on-children-s-h.html>
- Ludwig, D. S. (2009). Artificially sweetened beverages: Cause for concern. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 302(22), 2477-2478.
- McNeill, L. H., Kreuter, M. W., & Subramanian, S. V. (2006). Social environment and physical activity: A review of concepts and evidence. *Social Science & Medicine*, 63(4), 1011-1022.
- Office of Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008). *2008 Physical activity guidelines for Americans*. Retrieved from <http://www.health.gov/paguidelines/guidelines/default.aspx>
- Popkin, B. M., Armstrong, L. E., Bray, G. M., Caballero, B., Frei, B., & Willett, W. C. (2006). A new proposed guidance system for beverage consumption in the United States. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 83(3), 529-542.
- Salmon, J., Timperio, A., Telford, A., Carver, A., & Crawford, D. (2005). Association of family environment with children's television viewing and with low level of physical activity. *Obesity Research*, 13(11), 1939-1951.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.). *ChooseMyPlate.gov*. Retrieved from <http://choosemyplate.gov>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). *Dietary guidelines for Americans 2010*. Retrieved from <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/DGAs2010-PolicyDocument.htm>
- Winston, C., & Beck, L. (1999). Phytochemicals: Health protective effects. *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research*, 60(2), 78-84.

## 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables

**One serving of fruits and vegetables is:**

**1 medium fruit**

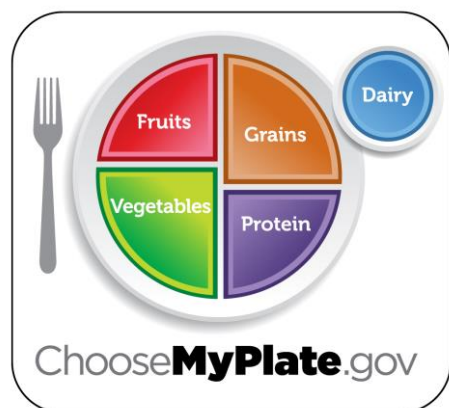
**½ cup of chopped, canned, or cooked fruit**

**¼ cup of dried fruit**

**1 cup of raw leafy greens**

**½ cup of raw or cooked vegetables**

**½ cup of 100% fruit or vegetable juice**



The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010<sup>1</sup> provide the following recommendations:

- Increase fruit and vegetable intake.
- Eat a variety of vegetables, especially dark-green, red, and orange vegetables, and beans and peas.

The American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>2</sup> has the following recommendations for consuming fruit juice:

- Do not give juice to infants younger than 6 months.
- Limit juice to 4-6 oz per day in children 1 to 6 years.
- Limit juice to 8-12 oz per day in children and adolescents 7 years and older.
- Fruit juice offers no nutritional benefits over whole fruits, and whole fruits provide fiber and other nutrients.

The United States Department of Agriculture recommends that half of a person's plate should be fruits and vegetables<sup>3</sup>. This recommendation is reflected on the current U.S. Food Guidance System, MyPlate, which is shown to the left.

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010*. Retrieved from <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/DGAs2010-PolicyDocument.htm>
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. (2013). Policy Statement: Use and Misuse of Fruit Juice in Pediatrics. *Pediatrics*, 107(5), 1210-1213.
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.). *ChooseMyPlate.gov*. Retrieved from <http://choosemyplate.gov>

## 2 or fewer hours of recreational screen time<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup>review guidelines on parenting strategies to encourage quality screen time (AAP, 2015)

**Recreational screen time is free time spent sitting or reclining in front of televisions, computers, tablets, and similar screens.**

Children will engage in screen time as fully as they do in any other activity and screen time can have its positive and negative effects. So, the American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>1</sup> makes these recommendations:

- Become involved in children's media use and set limits around screen time.
- Help children learn to distinguish and choose programs that contain quality content.
- Become role models for children, demonstrating the value of productive time spent away from screens.
- Attempt to keep children under the age of 2 years away from screens entirely.

1. Brown, A., Shifrin, D.L. (2015). Beyond turn it off: How to advise families on media use. *American Academy of Pediatrics News*, 36(10), 1-1.



## or more hours of physical activity

**Physical activity is any movement of the body that raises one's heart rate above resting.**

**Structured physical activities are planned, and unstructured physical activities are free-play.**

**Aerobic physical activities involve moving large muscle groups. Moderate and vigorous aerobic activities make a person's heart, lungs, and muscles work noticeably harder. Examples include bicycling, swimming, and playing chasing games, like tag.**

**Muscle-strengthening physical activities include climbing and swinging on playground equipment, doing sit-ups and push-ups, and resistance training.**

**Bone-strengthening physical activities create an impact on bones, such as hitting a tennis ball, jumping rope, or practicing gymnastics.**

For children 5 years and younger, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education<sup>1</sup> has developed the following recommendations:

- Infants under 12 months of age should engage in structured and unstructured physical activities each day that are devoted to exploring movement and developing motor skills.
- Toddlers (12 to 36 months old) should engage in structured physical activities for at least 30 minutes per day plus unstructured physical activities for at least 60 minutes (and up to several hours) per day.
- Preschoolers (3 to 5 years old) should engage in structured physical activities for at least 60 minutes per day plus unstructured physical activities for at least 60 minutes (and up to several hours) per day.

For children and adolescents 6 years and older, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services<sup>2</sup> provides the following recommendations:

- Children and adolescents (6 to 17 years old) should engage in 1 hour of physical activity per day.
  - Most of the 1 hour should be moderate- or vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activities.
  - Muscle-strengthening physical activities should be included at least 3 days per week.
  - Bone-strengthening physical activities should be included at least 3 days per week.

1. National Association for Sport and Physical Education. (2009). *Active Start: A Statement of Physical Activity Guidelines for Children From Birth to Age 5*. Retrieved from <http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/standards/nationalGuidelines/ActiveStart.cfm>
2. Office of Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008). *2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*. Retrieved from <http://www.health.gov/paguidelines/guidelines/default.aspx>



## sweetened beverages

**Sweetened beverages are fruit drinks, sodas, sports drinks, and other beverages with caloric sweeteners like sugars and syrups.**

Researchers from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Eating Research program<sup>1</sup> made the following conclusion following an examination of current evidence:

- Reducing sweetened beverage intake “would have no negative effect on children's health and would reduce the risk of childhood obesity and many other health problems, including type 2 diabetes, poor nutrition, excess caffeine consumption, and dental decay.”

1. Gortmaker, S., Long, M., & Wang, Y. C. (2009). *The Negative Impact of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages on Children's Health*. Retrieved from <http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research/2009/11/the-negative-impact-of-sugar-sweetened-beverages-on-children-s-h.html>