



## 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 they're not available.

## 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 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 as well as calories, so think of them as foods that can contribute towards a healthy diet rather than 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!