

# Healthy Messages

Here are some sample messages that you can distribute. Consider these quick messages for screen savers, the intranet, or social media.

- “ Do a little bit more physical activity, a little more often!
- “ Get more daily activity! Walk around the building before you go to your car.
- “ Get more daily activity! Invite a co-worker for a walk during lunch.
- “ Walking is a great way to start being active more often!
- “ Walking helps lower your blood pressure.
- “ Walking gives you more energy.
- “ Walking helps relieve stress.
- “ Walking helps you sleep better.
- “ Celebrate family occasions with a walk or hike. Get outside and play.
- “ Bike to your children’s sporting events.
- “ Walk the dog.
- “ Family meal time is important; take 10-15 minutes to sit down together.
- “ How do you involve your family in meal planning.
- “ Don’t waste time waiting for the elevator, use the stairs!



## Social Media Tips

Social media is great for stirring up conversation around a topic or message. It can be used to inspire or assist people in making changes. Follow the number one rule: share information or ask questions in a way that makes healthy choices fun, easy, and popular!

### Examples of Facebook posts from the Let’s Go! page:

- “ Are you a bottle water or tap water person?
- “ What ‘in season’ produce are you looking forward to eating?
- “ What are your tips for making quick, healthy, homemade meals?
- “ Like this post if cool, clear, crisp, refreshing water is your favorite way to stay hydrated.
- “ How do you stay active in the winter?

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# Short Messages

These messages are appropriate for emails and bulletin boards.

- “ Stair climbing and other small bursts of physical activity at work make a significant contribution to the recommended daily amount of 30 minutes (or more) of daily physical activity!
- “ Get more daily activity! If you have a choice, always take the stairs. If you have stairs, take as many trips up and down as possible.
- “ Get more daily activity! Walk around the office or building. There's no need to sit still while you talk on the phone or think. Pacing and fidgeting are physical activity.
- “ Wear a pedometer at work: Since every step counts, wearing a pedometer is wonderful motivator to walk more during your workday.
- “ Take small steps to help make health a priority. Small changes make a big difference over time! Incorporate the walking into activities you would be doing anyway. If you need to go to a different floor, use the stairs. Take the long way to the restroom and take a flight each way. Studies have shown that people are most likely to stick to exercise when it is part of their daily routine. Get started today!

- “ Along with its benefits to the heart, walking:
  - improves circulation
  - helps breathing
  - increases happiness
  - bolsters the immune system
  - helps prevent osteoporosis
  - helps prevent and control diabetes



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“ Challenge yourself to take the stairs all day today. If it is not possible to use the stairs, challenge yourself to pick two new ways this week to increase your physical activity during the work day:

- Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Schedule a walking meeting with co-workers.
- Stand and/or stretch while talking on the telephone.
- Rather than using the telephone, walk down the hall to speak with someone.
- Walk around your building, stretch your muscles.
- Park in the farthest parking spot and walk the rest of the way.

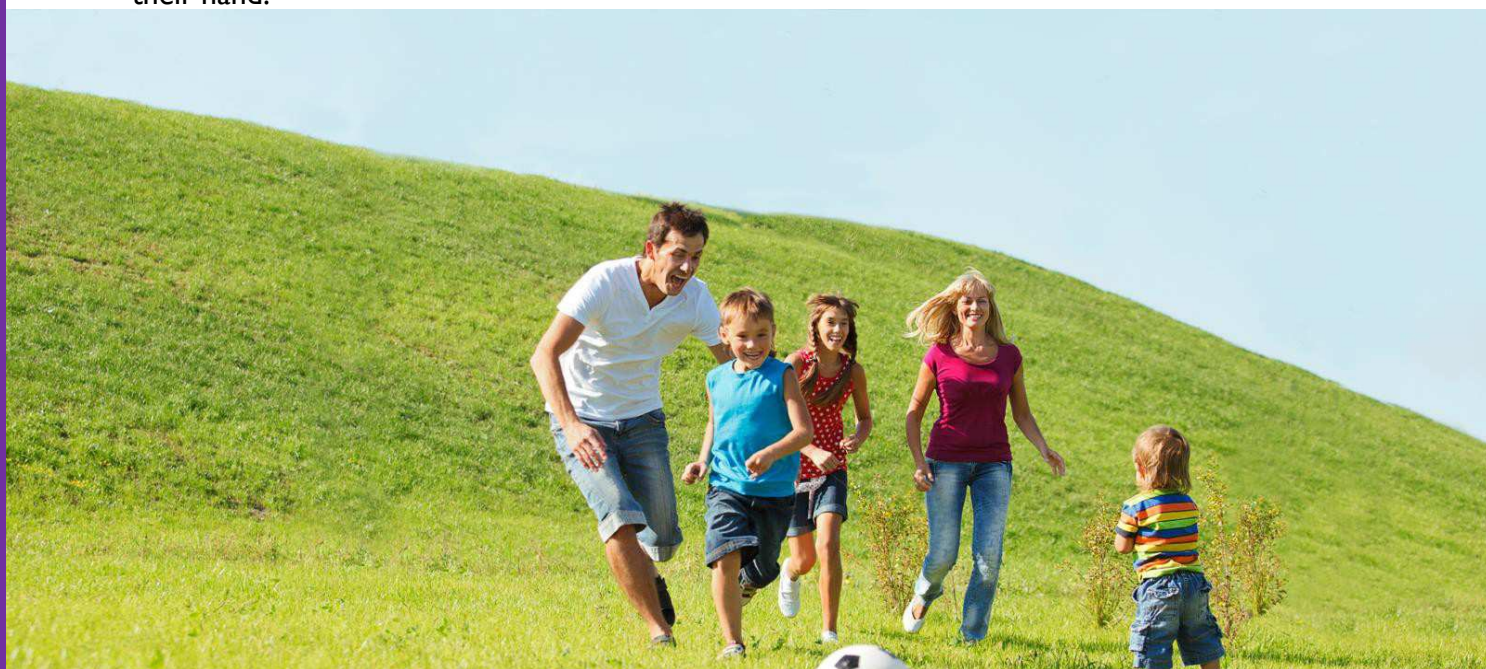
“ What is a serving?

- A whole fruit the size of a tennis ball.
- ½ cup of cut up fruit or veggies.
- 1 cup of raw leafy greens.
- ¼ cup of dried fruits.
- For kids, a serving is the size of the palm of their hand.

“ Be a healthy family. Keep the TV out of bedrooms and turn off the TV during meals.

Kids and adults should be active for at least one hour every day. You are your family's number one role model, so start practicing healthy habits today!

- Make gradual changes to increase your level of physical activity.
- Incorporate physical activity into your daily routines.
- Try tracking the level of your physical activity using a pedometer.
- Role model an active lifestyle.
- Turn off the TV and computer and keep them out of the bedroom.
- Limit TV and recreational computer time.
- Encourage lifelong physical activity by incorporating physical activity into your routine.
- Keep physical activity fun!



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**CLEARINGHOUSE**  
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

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*5210 Healthy Military Children is adapted from Let's Go! [www.letsgo.org](http://www.letsgo.org).*

as of July 11, 2017



These messages are appropriate for newsletters or e-newsletters.

## Mindful Eating

“ Mindful eating involves paying full attention to the experience of eating and drinking.

It includes being aware of all the activities that surround food and eating. Mindful eating helps us learn to listen to what our body is telling us about hunger and satisfaction. It can improve our overall health.

Suggestions for mindful eating:

- Don't skip meals
- Eat sitting down
- Be present - eat without TV, newspaper, computer or work
- Learn to recognize the difference between hunger and cravings
- Notice how much food is on your plate, fork, or spoon
- Take time to enjoy the taste and to chew your food slowly between bites
- Check during a meal to see if you really need more food
- Notice how you feel both physical and emotionally



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## Fruits & Veggies

### “ Eat at least 5 fruits and vegetables a day.

A diet rich in fruits and vegetables provides vitamins and minerals, important for supporting growth and development, and for optimal immune function.

Most fruits and vegetables are low in calories and fat, making them a healthy choice anytime. They may also contain phytochemicals (fight-o-chemicals) that work together with fiber to benefit your health in many ways. Different phytochemicals are found in different fruits based on their color – that’s why it’s important to put a rainbow on your plate.

#### Try it:

- Offer your family new fruits and veggies different ways; it can take 7 to 10 tries before you like a new food.
- Many fruits and veggies taste great with a dip or dressing. Try a low-fat salad dressing with yogurt or get protein with peanut butter.
- Make a fruit smoothie with low-fat yogurt.

#### Mix it:

- Add them to foods you already make, like pasta, soups, casseroles, pizza, rice, etc.
- Add fruit to your cereal, oatmeal, or other breakfast foods.
- Be a good role model for your family and have at least one veggie at every meal.

#### Slice it:

- Wash and chop veggies and fruits so they are ready to grab and eat.
- Most people prefer crunchy foods over mushy ones. Enjoy them fresh or lightly steamed

#### Choose with the seasons:

- Buy fruits and veggies that are in season.
- Remember that frozen fruits and veggies are always available and are a healthy choice.

#### Be a Role Model:

- You are your family’s number one role model, so start practicing the healthy habits you encourage your family to practice.
- Start by making small changes.
- Encourage the whole family to embrace a healthy lifestyle.



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## Physical Activity

### 66 Incorporate One Hour or More of Physical Activity into your Day.

Physical activity makes you feel good. It helps keep you at a healthy weight, makes your heart happy, and makes you stronger and more flexible.

One hour of moderate physical activity means:

Doing activities where you breathe hard, like hiking or dancing

20 minutes of vigorous physical activity means:

Doing activities where you sweat, like running, aerobics or basketball.

Free and Fun Activities:

- Take a walk with your family
- Play with your pet
- Walk the dog
- Take a bike ride (remember to wear your helmet)
- Turn on music and dance
- Jump rope
- Play Frisbee
- Take the stairs
- Park the car at the end of the parking lot

## Avoid Sugary Drinks

66 Soda has no nutritional value and is high in sugar. Just nine ounces of soda is equal to 110-150 empty calories. Many sodas also contain caffeine, which kids don't need. Try drinking water and low-fat milk instead of soda and drinks with lots of sugar. If you choose to serve juice, buy 100% juice and limit the serving size.

Sports drinks contain lots of sugar. They should only be used when you are active for more than 60 minutes and it is hot and humid.

Energy drinks are NOT sports drinks and should never replace water during exercise.

## Fuel with Water

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- Water is the body's most important nutrient.
  - Between 70-80% of your body is made up of water.
  - When you exercise, you sweat, and when you sweat you LOSE water and minerals – it is important to replace the water you lose when you sweat.
  - Water is the #1 thirst quencher!
  - Add fresh lemon, lime or oranges wedges to water for some natural flavor.
  - Fill a pitcher of water and keep it in the fridge.

Replace soda with water instead of other sugar-sweetened beverages, such as juice or sports drinks. Remember, water is the best drink when you are thirsty.

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