Jips for Healthy Living

How to live a healthy and active lifestyle









This handbook has been put together by Solutions 4 Health, it contains helpful information for adults, children and families on living a healthy and active lifestyle.

Contents

Healthy Weight	2
Healthy Eating	5
Snacking	
Energy Balance	11
Portion sizes	12
Healthy Lifestyle on a Budget	12
Sugar	16
Fat	20
Label reading	25
5 a day	26
Packed lunch	29
Physical activity adults	31
Physical activity children	
Sit Less	34
Takeaway swaps and eating out	35
Alcohol	37
5 way to wellbeing	
Health apps	41



Healthy Weight

Find out more about Body Mass Index (BMI), what is it and what does your result mean?

What is BMI?

2

Adults: BMI is a measure that uses your height and weight to work out if your weight is healthy.

For children and young people aged 2 to 18: The BMI calculation takes into account age and gender as well as height and weight.

How can I work out my BMI?

For both adults and children: You can use the NHS choices BMI calculator online at: http://www.nhs.uk/Tools/Pages/ Healthyweightcalculator.aspx

Or if you are an adult: use the chart on the right.



What does the result mean?

For Adults:

BMI Range	What does this mean?
Below 18.5	You are in the underweight range
18.5 – 24.9	You are in the healthy weight range
25 – 29.9	You are in the overweight range
30+	You are in the obese range

Interested in losing weight?

Solutions 4 Health offer a range of **FREE weight management services** which support you to not only lose weight but keep it off long term.

See **www.solutions4health.co.uk** for more information.

Accuracy of BMI

For the general public BMI is considered to be accurate measure of healthy weight status. BMI takes into account natural variations in body shape, giving a healthy weight range for a particular height.

As well as measuring your BMI, healthcare professionals may take other factors into account when assessing if you're a healthy weight. Muscle is much denser than fat, so very muscular people, such as heavyweight boxers, weight trainers and athletes, may be a healthy weight even though their BMI is classed as obese.

Your ethnic group can also affect your risk of some health conditions. For example, adults of Asian origin may have a higher risk of health problems at BMI levels over 25 kg/m2.

You should not use BMI as a measure if you're pregnant. Get advice from your midwife or GP if you're concerned about your weight.





Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

Crown copyright 2016

Healthy Eating

The Eatwell Guide shows that different amounts of each food group we should have to form a healthy balanced diet. We don't need to have all of the food groups at every single meal but should aim to achieve this balance over a whole day.

Fruit and Vegetables

high in vitamins, minerals and fibre, we should aim to get at least 5 portions per day. Fresh, dried, frozen and tinned all count.

However, we should limit fruit juice to just 1 150ml portion per day as it is high in sugar.



Carbohydrates

are our main source of energy and keep us full. Sources include potatoes, bread, rice, potatoes, pasta and other starchy foods. We should try to choose brown / wholegrain versions which are higher in fibre.

Protein

an essential building block which allows our bodies to grow, develop and repair. We should aim to eat 2 – 3 portions of protein a day from a variety of foods including; beans, pulses, fish, eggs and meats. We should also try to eat 2 portions of fish per week, one of which is oily.

Dairy

contains protein and minerals such a calcium, vitamin D and B12, important for the health of our bones and teeth. We should aim to have 2 – 3 portions of dairy food each day. Sources include milk, yoghurt and cheese. Choose lower fat and lower sugar options.

Oils and Spreads

Unsaturated fats are healthier fats and include vegetable, rapeseed, olive and sunflower oils. Remember all types of fat are high in energy and should be eaten sparingly. For more information see: www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/ Pages/the-eatwell-guide.aspx



5

Snacking

Snacking

The first thing many people do when they want to eat more healthily is stop snacking. However, snacks form an important part of a healthy and balanced diet, choosing the right ones is key! **Healthy Snacks:**

Keep us full between meals Give us energy Control our hunge Source of nutrients

We should limit snacks that:

- Do not keep you full up so you will be hungry more quickly and are more likely to overeat
- Contain 'empty calories' as they provide no/ low levels of nutrients
- Contain high levels fat, salt and sugar

We should choose snacks which:

- Keep us full as they contain more fibre
- Are high in nutrients such as vitamins, minerals and fibre
- Are less processed
- Do not contain as much added sugar, fat, salt, preservatives



Limit

Unhealthy snacks, such as:



Crisps and mini cheddars



X

- Salted, roasted and flavoured nuts
- Chocolate bars
- Biscuits and snack bags



X

- Cereal bars and processed fruit snacks
- Sausage rolls, scotch eggs and cocktail sausages + processed meat snacks



- Cheese strings
- Ice cream and sugary yoghurts

Enjoy

2 healthy snacks per day such as:



A small handful of plain nuts such as almonds, peanuts and cashews



Rice cakes spread thinly with peanut butter or oatcakes



Whole pieces or fruit or a small handful of dried fruit such as apricots, prunes and raisins



Homemade plain popcorn spiced with cinnamon or paprika



Cut up cucumber, pepper and carrots served with low fat hummus or yoghurt



Sugar free jelly served with fruit or natural low fat yoghurt

For more information see:

www.nhs.uk/change4life/pages/healthy-snacks. aspx





- Homemade Cereal Bars

Ingredients

150g of jumbo oats
2 medium, very ripe bananas
60g of melted butter or coconut oil
60g of raisins
60g of dried apricots or cranberries
80g of mixed seeds such as sunflower
seeds and pumpkin seeds

Let's get cooking

1. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees C (fan 180 degrees C, gas mark 6). Mix the oats, raisins, cranberries and seeds together in a bowl.

2. Pour in the melted butter or coconut oil and mix in thoroughly to make sure the oats are well coated.

3. On a separate plate, mash the bananas into a pulp with a fork, add to the oat mixture, and mix well. Spread the mixture into a 30x20cm tin and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes. Once cooked, transfer to a wire rack to cool, then cut into six bars.

9





Energy Balance

Staying a healthy weight can sometimes seem impossible, however it is not as complicated as it seems and all comes down to our energy balance.

Energy IN

Energy is known as calories

Our bodies need energy to function

This energy comes from the food and drink we consume



Balance = our weight stays the same



Energy OUT

Our bodies use energy up by:

Body functioning – heart beating, brain working, stomach digesting food

Growth & Development

To supply energy for physical activity



If we eat foods high in energy but don't do much exercise we will **gain weight**

If we reduce our energy intake from food and increase our activity level we will **lose weight**

How much energy do our bodies need?

Our energy requirements are effected by:





Portion Size

Eating the right amount of food goes hand in hand with having a balanced diet, check out the helpful guide below!

Me Size Portions – we should aim to adjust portion sizes to each individual family member to ensure they have the correct amount; depending on the person's age, size and activity level. Using their hand acts as a great guide!



Curl for Carbs....

This means we should have a handful of carbohydrate foods. Such as pasta, rice, cereal, bread and noodles.



Fist for Fruit....

A portion of fruit is the same size as our fist. Such as an apple, a small bunch of grapes or 2 satsumas.



Both for Broccoli....

A portion of vegetables is the same as our hands held together. Such as salad, carrots and broccoli.



Palm for Protein....

This means the size of protein foods should be the same as the palm of our hand. Such as chicken, fish, beef, tofu and beans.

Think of this all together as a meal. A handful of wholemeal pasta, with a palm sized piece of chicken and both hands of broccoli with some chopped tomatoes and a handful of grapes for dessert. This would be a filling and nutritious meal.



Eating on a budget

Many people think it's expensive to eat a healthy balanced diet. **Not true!** Follow these top tips to show you how you can eat well on a budget!

Cook from scratch

Making meals from scratch is cheaper and healthier than buying ready-made meals, which often have a lot of unnecessary sugar, salt and preservatives added.

Buy own-brand goods

The quality is generally the same as popular brands. The only real difference is the price.

Buy frozen fruits and vegetables

It's often cheaper to buy frozen fruits and vegetables. They contain the same nutrients as fresh ones, need no preparation and, if you can store them, they are often the cheapest way of adding vegetables to dishes.



Use less meat in dishes by adding more vegetables and beans such as chickpeas, lentils or red kidney beans to add extra protein.

Buy and cook in bulk

Buying greater quantities of food is often cheaper. Buy larger amounts of staple foods such as pasta, rice and flour and store well. Cook bulk meals such as stews, soups and bolognaise, then freeze in portion sizes for a quick and healthy meal for when you are busy.

Plan your meals and stick to the list!

Shopping costs can get out of control quickly if you don't have a plan or shopping list. If you plan your meals across the week, you won't buy food that gets wasted.











Beware of offers

Beware of offers such as 'buy one get one free'. They can seem good value but can often tempt you to buy or eat more than you need.

Compare prices and know how much you can spend

There are lots of websites where you can compare the cost of food at different supermarkets – for example, **www.mysupermarket.co.uk**

Avoid pre-cut, pre-peeled and packaged

vegetables and fruits. They are more expensive and will go off much quicker. Choose your fruit and vegetables carefully. Don't buy fruit and vegetables that are overly ripe unless you are sure that you will use them quickly.

Buy in Season

Buying fruit and vegetables that are in season is much cheaper as they are readily available and have less distance to travel. Exotic fruit or foods that are out of season are more expensive as the have to travel from around the world.



For more info see:

www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/preventing-heartdisease/healthy-eating/healthy-eating-on-a-bud get?gclid=CMOJkO2dnNQCFReeGwod03IKdA

15

Sugar

It is well understood that as a nation we are eating too much sugar. But how much should we be having and how can we reduce our intake?

First of all, it's important to understand that there are different types of sugar.

Free sugar = the sugar **added to foods** by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, **plus sugars naturally present** in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juices and smoothies.

Naturally Occurring Sugar = sugars found naturally within milk and the sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods (particularly fruits and vegetables which have not beeh blended).

We should aim to **reduce the overall amount of sugar in our diets,** as having too much can cause tooth decay, weight gain and conditions such as type 2 diabetes long

	• • • •		
New recommend	lations	tor Free S	Judar
			gui

Aged	Less than	4.75
4 - 6	19g / d	teaspoons
Aged	Less than	6
7 - 10	24g / d	teaspoons
Aged 11+	Less than	7.5
& Adults	30g / d	teaspoons

term.

For more info see: www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/how-to-cut-down-on-sugar-in-your-diet.aspx

87% of people have too much sugar!

The highest intake of sugar is seen in children who have triple the recommended amount each day! Adults have double the recommended amount of free sugar

Top tips on reducing sugar

A good place to start is looking at drinks. Drinks are the highest contributor of sugar to children's and many adult's diets. Therefore, swapping fizzy drinks such as cola and flavoured milkshakes to water, no sugar soft drinks such as squash or milk is an **easy change to make.**



Swap juice for whole fruit and

vegetables, this way you will get all the fibre at the same time. Additionally, sugar within fruit and veggies is contained within the cells. This is less easily absorbable and will not count towards free sugar, as juices and smoothies do.

Limit sweet treats such as chocolate, cakes, sweets and pastries. These should be an **occasional treat** not part of our everyday diet. **U** such as cereal and yoghurts to find a lower sugar option.

 U U<



Check the ingredients; food labels

do not highlight free sugars, however look out for words such as cane/ brown

sugar, honey, high fructose corn syrup,

traffic light labelling; compare foods

fructose, sucrose and glucose! Use









Jat

There is often lots of **confusion over which oil** is the healthiest, which should we cook with and how much we should have.





When thinking about fats, it is first important to understand that there are different types.

Monounsaturated - Have these in small amounts as they can help to **maintain healthy cholesterol** levels. Found in avocados, olives, olive oil, rapeseed oil, as well as in many nuts.



Polyunsaturated - Have these in small amounts; Polyunsaturated fats help to **maintain healthy cholesterol levels and provide essential fatty acids**. Found in oily fish, corn oil, sesame oil, soya oil, and some seeds.

Saturated - Eating too much saturated **fat increases the amount of cholesterol in your blood.** Found in processed and fatty meats like sausages, ham, burgers, hard cheeses, whole milk and cream. Butter, lard, ghee, suet, palm oil and coconut oil.



Trans - **Avoid wherever possible.** They can increase cholesterol in your blood. Foods with hydrogenated oils or fats in them likely contain trans fats.



All fats contain the same amount of calories... Fat contains 9 kcal per gram. Therefore, 10g (2tsp) of fat = 90kcal

Fat contains higher levels of energy compared to any other nutrient. Hence why if we consume lots of foods and drinks high in fat and do not use up this energy, we **gain weight.**





Top tips on reducing fat intake



Choose lean cuts of meat and make sure you **trim any excess fat** and remove the skin from chicken and turkey.



Limit cakes, biscuits, fried and processed foods.

Instead of pouring oils straight from the bottle, use a spray oil or **measure out your oils with a teaspoon.**



1 teaspoon of oil is enough to cook with.



Read food labels to help you make choices that are lower in fat and opt to **grill, bake, steam, boil** or **poach** your foods.



Use **semi-skimmed milk** rather than whole or condensed milk.

Remember that many cheeses are high in saturated fat so keep your portions small - **matchbox sized.** Opt for strongly flavoured varieties and grate it to make a little go a long way.



For more info see: www.bhf.org.uk/news-from-the-bhf/news-archive/2015/august/our-advice-on-fats







Label Reading

Often food packaging and advertising can be misleading; making us think a food or drink is better for us than it really is. By looking at a food label you choose between products and keep a check on the amount of foods you're eating that are high in fat, salt and added sugars.

How to use the label reading card:

- 1. Locate the nutritional information on **the back of the packet**
- 2. Look at the per 100g column
- This step is **important** as the card will not work if you use the per portion column
- 4. Using sugar as an example
- 5. Find "Carbohydrates of which sugars"
- 6. Ensure you are looking at the amount per 100g
- 7. Check sugar amounts of traffic light card

Red means the food is high in something we should be trying to cut down on. Try to eat these foods as a treat & in smaller amounts.

Amber means the food is an OK choice most of the time and in the middle for that nutrient. Try to choose green where possible.

Green means the food is low in salt, saturated fat, fat or sugars. The more green lights, the healthier the choice!

Measures per 100g	Low healthier	Medium have sometimes	High cut down on
Fat	3g or less	3.1g to 17.5g	More than 17.5g
Saturates	1.5g or less	1.6g to 5.0g	More than 5.0g
Sugar	5.0g or less	5.1g to 22.5g	More than 22.5g
Salt	0.3g or less	0.4g to1.5g	More than 1.5g





5 a day

Fruits and vegetables are high in vitamins, minerals and fibre, we should aim to get at least 5 portions per day, making up 1/3 of our diet. Enjoy as a snack and with meals!

Top Tips

- Try steaming rather than boiling vegetables to preserve nutrients
- Add extra vegetables to meals such as bolognaise and stews
- Choose fruit canned in juice rather than syrup
- Limit dried fruit to 1 small handful per day
- Fruit juice is higher in sugar and lower in fibre than whole fruit, for children dilute 50:50 with water
- Make smoothies from frozen fruit and add vegetables such as spinach to cut down on sugar
- Save money by choosing fruit and vegetables that are in season

Remember fruit contains sugar!

Although it is natural sugar it still damages our teeth and if we do not use up the energy it will be stored as fat in our bodies. Aim for at least 5 a day = 3 portions vegetables + 2 portions fruit choosing a variety of different colours.



What counts as one of yoiur 5 a day for an adult?

For children see Me Size portions on p12 for more information





Packed Lunches

Lunch contributes to around 1/3 of our intake, therefore it is important that it contains good sources of vitamins, minerals, carbohydrate, dairy, protein and fibre.

Packed lunches can often be higher in fat, sugar and salt and can contain more processed foods. If you or your child takes packed lunches.

Try including:

- Starchy foods these include bread, rice, potatoes and pasta
- **V** Protein foods including meat, fish, eggs, beans
- **V** A dairy item this could be cheese or a natural low fat yoghurt
- **Vegetables or salad** and a **portion of fruit**
- 🚺 Water

Try not to include:

- **Confectionery** such as sweets and chocolate
- **8** Crisps and biscuits
- **Orecessed meat** products such as sausage rolls, scotch eggs and pork pies
- 😢 Fizzy or sugary drinks

For more info: https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/healthierlunchboxes#AIJIkLVQ0MeMGaIE.97





Physical Activity for adults

There are a range of health and social benefits associated with physical activity, however the vast majority of people are not active enough!



Find an activity that you enjoy doing and make it part of your normal, everyday life.

This way you are much more likely to stay active long term which is key to living a healthy lifestyle and reducing your risk of obesity, poor mobility and various diseases.

Walk as much as you can.

For more information on Fitness and Exercise services in your area visit:

www.nhs.uk/service-search/



Physical Activity for Children

Children aged over 5 should be physically active for **at least 60 minutes** each day!

Top Tips to Increase exercise as a family:

- Have active journeys
- Try new activities that you can do as a family, swimming can be great fun for everyone
- Remember children do not always do as much exercise at school as what we think they do
- Make the most of the **great outdoors** going for a walk or a trip to the park
- Play fun games in the comfort of your own home
- Set by example and try to be a role model for your family
- Swap screen time for active time

32

Active travel

- Travel as much as you can in an active way, this can contribute to children's physical activity goal of 60 minutes per day.
- This includes walking, cycling or scooting to school or to the shops
- If you have to drive, simply park further away and walk the last part. You'll avoid traffic and burn energy at the same time
- Stand on the train or bus, take the stairs and walk up escalators
- Try to move around every 20 minutes and reduce the amount of time spent sitting down
- Getting children active when they are young, encourages good activity patterns and habits later in childhood



make the most of the great outdoors


Screen & Sedentary Jime

Screen time should be limited to **less than 2 hours per day** for both adults and children aged over 2. This includes TV, computer, tablet, video games and smart phones.



- Reduce time spent in infant carriers, car seats & chairs
- Encourage walking and play as much as possible
- Reduce time spent in walking aids or baby bouncers
- Reduce time spent in front of screens

Children & Young People

- Agree a family limit to screen time per day
- Make bedrooms a screen free zone
- Avoid having screen time before school and at meals
- Encourage children to get involved in house chores such as setting the table
- Have screen free days, such as no screen Sundays, phone free Fridays and enjoy activities as a family
- Choose gifts such as a scooter, skateboard, ball or kite to encourage active play

Adults

- Stand on the train or bus, take the stairs and walk up escalators
- Set a reminder to get up every 30 minutes
- Place a laptop on a box or similar to work standing up
- Stand or walk around while on the phone
- Walk to a co-worker's desk instead of emailing or calling
- Swap some TV time for more active tasks or hobbies



Eating out & Jakeaways

Larger portion sizes and foods higher in fat, sugar and salt. Its no surprise that regular takeaways & meals out can lead to weight gain. Check out the best options below!

Italian		Chinese		Indian	
Avoid Large and deep dish pizzas, pizzas with cheese stuff crust Triple cheese and pepperoni	Choose Small or medium pizza with a thin base Vegetable or lean meat toppings	Avoid Sweet and sour Crispy fried beef Battered pork/ chicken balls Special or egg	Choose Crab and corn soup Steamed dumplings, steamed vegetables and plain boiled rice Steamed fish, chicken and chop suey Szechuan prawns	Avoid Creamy curries such a korma, passanda or masala Nann, bhajis, pakoras and poppadoms.	Choose Tandoori or madras with chicken, prawns or vegetables Plain rice & Chapatti
creamy pasta sauces such a carbonara Garlic bread	Tomato- based pasta sauces such as Pomodoro or Arrabiata Bruschetta	fried rice Prawn toast and spring rolls		Burgers & Keba Avoid Doner kebab Added cheese & mayonnaise Thin-cut chips	Choose Shish kebab with pitta bread and salad Grilled burgers
For more info see: www.nhs.uk/change4life/pages/ restaurant-takeaway-healthy-options.aspx				Chicken or fish deep fried in batter	made from lean fish, beef or chicken





Alcohol

37

is very high in empty calories and can lead to us eating foods high in fat, sugar and salt when we drink it. Check out the amount of calories in your favorite drink below and our tips on how to reduce your intake!



- Alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks throughout the night, not only will this save you money but you will cut your energy intake in half!
- Dilute alcoholic drinks such as wine and beer with low calorie mixers to make a spritzer or shandy.
- Try a lower calorie alcohol, spirits such as vodka are lower in calories than beer and wine.
- **Remember** alcohol can stimulate your appetite and makes you less likely to make healthy food choices. Avoid the kebab shop on the walk home by preparing a healthy snack before you go out.

For more info see: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Both men and women are encouraged to consume no more than 2 - 3 units per day or 14 units per week and should aim to have 2 alcohol free days each week.

alternate alcoholic & soft drinks





5 Ways to Wellbeing



Evidence suggests there are five steps we can all take to improve our

mental wellbeing. Give them a try, you may feel happier, more positive and able to get the most from life!



Connect with the people around you: your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Spend time developing these relationships.

You don't have to go to the gym. Take a walk, go cycling or play a game of football. Find an activity that you enjoy and make it a part of your life.

Learning new skills can give you a sense of achievement and a new confidence. So why not sign up for that cooking course, start learning to play a musical instrument, or figure out how to fix your bike?

Even the smallest act can count, whether it's a smile, a thank you or a kind word. Larger acts, such as volunteering at your local community centre, can improve your mental wellbeing and help you build new social networks.

Be more aware of the present moment, including your thoughts, feelings, your body and the world around you. Some people call this awareness "mindfulness". It can positively change the way you feel about life and how you approach challenges.

For more info: www.mind.org.uk

improve your wellbeing

40

Apps

Check out these great, **FREE** apps to help you and your family live a healthy and active lifestyle.



My Fitness Pal A great app for adults to keep track of your food intake, simply scan the bardcode or look up the item in the app and it will log the calories and nutrients in your own personal food diary. Great for motivation, losing weight and keeping track of your food and activity level!

Food Switch



An app which allows you to scan the barcodes on different foods, shows you the nutritional content using traffic lights and suggests healthier alternatives. Use in the supermarket to help you have a healthy shop.

Sugar Smart



Get sugar smart with this new app from Change4Life! Simply scan the barcode of different foods and drinks to see how many cubes of sugar they contain. Use at home or in the supermarket, this app will help you to make healthier choices and cut down your sugar intake.

One You



OneYou has a variety of apps to help you be healthier, starting with a guick guiz it gives advice on lifestyle changes. Apps include Easy Meals, Couch to 5k, Drink tracker and Stoptober.

Break Free



BreakFree monitors phone and app usage and tracks how addicted you are to your smartphone, it will then guide you on how to control phone usage and reduce your screen time.

NHS BMI



The NHS BMI health weight calculator and tracker allows you to calculate BMI for anyone over two years old. You can track the whole families BMI over time.

Useful Contacts

Websites that you may find helpful.

NHS Choices is the official website of the NHS. providing an award-winning, comprehensive health information service with thousands of articles, videos and tools, helping you to make the best choices about your health and lifestyle.

www.nhs.uk

Our lifestyles can be more unhealthy than we think. Start the fight back to a healthier you. Take the One You guiz and see how you score.

www.nhs.uk/oneyou

change

Would you or your family like to be healthier and happier? Would you like loads of ideas, recipes and games to help you do this? Then you already know why you should join Change4Life.

www.nhs.uk/change4life



D'ABETES U



www.bhf.org.uk





NHS

choices





NOTES



NOTES



Solutions 4 Health www.solutions4health.co.uk

0118 334 1861 0800 634 9139

info@solutions4health.co.uk



