How to Build a Meal

Nutritious foods are the best fuel for powering your body and brain. Use the plate below to help build healthy meals all day long.

Fruit: 1/2 cup per meal

apple (sliced, chopped, raw, or cooked) applesauce

1 small banana, peach, or orange

1 snack container of mixed fruit, pear, or pineapple (in natural juice)

dried fruit (raisins, apricots, cranberries)

100% fruit juice (orange, apple, grape)

berries (raspberries, strawberries, blueberries)

melon (honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon)

Fruits

Vegetables

Grains

Protein

Dairy: 1 cup per meal

low-fat milk low-fat yogurt cheese (hard, shredded) low-fat cottage cheese frozen yogurt

Grains: 2 oz. per meal

2 slices of bread (whole-grain or wheat)

1 English muffin

1 bag of popcorn

1 large tortilla

pasta (whole wheat, enriched)

Protein: 1 2/3 oz. per meal

rice (brown, wild, enriched white)

breakfast cereal (oat, wheat, corn, rice)

whole-wheat crackers

Vegetables: 3/4 cup per meal

broccoli carrots tomatoes

peas

cucumbers cauliflower mushrooms beans (black, leafy greens (spinach, romaine, dark leafy lettuce) (cooked, raw, blended) 2 slices of sandwich meat

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1 egg

nuts (almonds, pistachios, walnuts, sunflower seeds, cashews)

nut butter

beans (black, kidney, pinto,

white)

lean beef, pork, or ham

chicken breast

hummus

Sources: Based on daily intake recommendations (divided by 3) boys category, ages 9-13, for individuals who get less than 30 minutes per day of moderate physical activity, beyond normal daily activities.

kidney, pinto, soy)