



A nutrition Fact Sheet



Healthy Beverages

Why Choose Healthy Beverages?

- x You may not think of beverages as food, but they often still contain nutrients like calories and fat. Limiting the amount of sugary and high fat drinks is an important component of a healthy diet.
- x Sweetened beverages contain large amounts of empty calories. Empty calories are those that contain no nutrients and therefore do not benefit the health of an individual.
- x Low fat drink choices, such as skim milk, still offer the same healthy nutrients as the full fat version but with less fat.

Make the Healthy Choice

Instead of this	Choose this
Fruit flavored drink	100% fruit juice
Chocolate milk	Unflavored milk
Soda	Fruit infused water
Whole milk	1% or skim milk
Sweet tea	Unsweetened tea with lemon and mint
Flavored coffee drink	Coffee with unsweetened soy milk or low fat dairy milk

**Remember that water is always a good choice!*



Tips for Making Your Decision

- x Read the Nutrition Facts label to identify the amount of sugar and fat in a beverage.
- x Choose smaller portion sizes.
- x Reach for the low-sugar, no added sugar, or low fat options.
- x Keep in mind that there are two different types of sugar - natural and added. Added sugar is the type to limit.

Help Children Make Healthy Choices

- x Be a role model and display healthy behavior.
- x Keep the house free from unhealthy beverages.
- x Always have healthy choices available.
- x Involve children in decision making.
- x Water down sugary drinks.
- x Introduce healthy beverages slowly.
- x Buy small containers of sugary high fat drinks.
- x Allow undesirable choices sparingly.

Should Fruit Juice Be Limited?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that youth consume limited amounts of juice each day. Juice should always be 100% fruit juice and align with the guidelines.

Age	Amount of 100% juice per day
Under the age of 1	No juice
1-3 years old	4 ounces or less
4-6 years old	4-6 ounces or less
7-18 years old	8 ounces or less

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Flavored Water

Yield: Makes 2 quarts

Try these refreshing flavor combinations or create your own!

Watermelon Lime

1 cup watermelon
1 lime

Cucumber Lemon (or Lime)

½ cucumber
1 lemon or lime
5 mint leaves (optional)

Pineapple Grape

1 cup canned diced pineapple
Pineapple juice from can
1 cup grapes

Berry Kiwi (or Orange)

10 strawberries or blackberries
1 kiwi or orange



Directions

1. Wash all produce.
2. Collect, slice*, and measure all ingredients before starting to prepare the recipe.
3. Add all ingredients plus enough cold water to fill a 2 quart pitcher. Chill overnight in the refrigerator for the most flavor, and store in the refrigerator until ready to drink. The fruit will stay fresh in the water for up to 48 hours after being prepared.
4. After you drink the water, you can eat the fruit or blend it into a smoothie!

*Tips for releasing flavors of the produce:

Watermelon: Cut into small pieces (1 to 2 inches).

Citrus fruit (oranges, lemons, limes): Remove rinds, and slice into thin pieces.

Cucumber: Slice into thin pieces.

Mint: Tear leaves.

Grapes: Slice in half.

Berries: Remove top (strawberries only). Slice into small pieces.

Kiwi: Remove peel, and slice into thin pieces.

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