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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) fax: (833) 256-1665; or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



HELP ME BE HEALTHY



I AM 2 1/2

I want to be like you.

PLEASE HELP ME LEARN NEW WORDS.

My name is _____.

I weigh _____ pounds and _____ ounces.

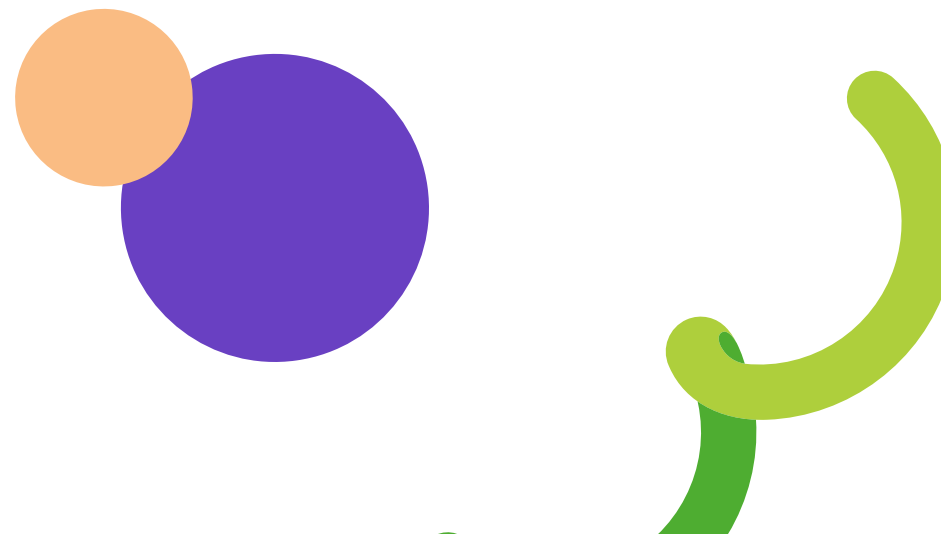
I am _____ inches tall.

My Hemoglobin is _____.

A special note for me _____

Please let me decide when I have had enough to eat

- I feed myself and use a spoon. I hold my cup with one hand. I feel proud.
- I want to learn about food. Please serve me foods I like along with a new food. You may need to offer me a new food 10 times before I will try it. This is normal.
- Do not worry if I do not eat a meal or snack. I will eat more on some days than others. Please do not beg me to eat or fix other foods for me.
- Please do not force me to eat or make me “clean my plate.”
- I need some fat. You can put margarine, cheese, or a little peanut butter on my food. Or let me dip my vegetables in salad dressing. A little sugar is okay, but not very much.



Let's stay on schedule

If a meal or nap is late, I get too hungry or tired. I might throw a tantrum. I do not know how to wait.

- Offer me 3 meals and 2 or 3 healthy snacks every day. Try to have them at the same time each day.
- When we are away from home, please take a snack for me. We can sit and eat WIC cereal or some crackers.
- Find a quiet place for my nap. Read my favorite book until I fall asleep.




Give me water when I ask for a drink.

Make our family meals relaxed

- I want to copy what you do and be just like you. If you make healthy choices and try new foods, I will do it too.
- I like to be with you. Please make time to eat with me. Can we turn off all our TVs, electronic games, and cell phones while we eat? I like it when you talk to me during meals.
- I still need to sit while I eat and drink so I do not choke. Put me in my highchair or booster seat at the table with our family. I can eat most foods you do—I want to be just like you!
- Sometimes I like eating with my fingers. I like using my spoon, too. I may still be messy when I eat. This is how I learn to feed myself.
- Let's both wash our hands before and after we eat.



Every day offer me:




Fruits

- 1/4 cup chopped or mashed fruit
- 2 ounces 100% fruit juice

Offer me a vitamin C fruit every day— oranges, strawberries, or WIC juice.

No more than 4 ounces of juice a day.



Protein


- 2 tablespoons meat, chicken, turkey, or fish
- 1/2 egg
- 2 tablespoons beans or tofu

Beans, meat, chicken, turkey, and fish give me lots of iron to keep my blood strong.

Vegetables

- 1/4 cup chopped or mashed cooked vegetables
- 2 ounces vegetable or tomato juice

Offer me a dark green or orange vegetable every day.



Dairy


- 4 ounces whole milk
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 slice cheese

No more than 16 ounces of milk a day.

WIC gives me whole milk. It is what I need.



If I drink breastmilk, it counts in my daily servings.



Grains

- 1/2 slice bread or 1/2 tortilla
- 1/4 cup cooked cereal, rice, or noodles
- 1/2 cup cold cereal
- 2 or 3 small crackers

Half the grains I eat should be whole grains.

Fats, Oils & Sweets

Only a little bit



MyPlate.gov

Let's cook

Oatmeal with Brown Sugar

- 1/2 cup lowfat or nonfat milk
- 1 packet Quaker Instant Oatmeal®
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar

Combine milk and oats in a large microwave safe bowl. Microwave on high for 1 to 2 minutes. Carefully remove hot bowl from the microwave. Add sugar and stir. Cool for several minutes before serving. Makes 1/2 cup or 2 servings.



Dried raisins for 2-1/2 year olds is still a choking hazard.

I want to help

I want to please you. Here are ways I can help. Please say you are proud of me.

- I can put foods in the basket when we shop. Let's talk about why they are good for me and how they help me be healthy.
- Can I decide the vegetable for dinner? Show me 2 vegetables. Ask me which vegetable we should choose.
- I might not be neat, but I am doing my best. Sometimes I drop things because my fingers are still small.
- When I help you, I feel good. I will probably eat better, too!



Look what I can do

- I like to sing! Teach me a song we can sing together. We can make up a song, too.
- I can say 50 words now!
- I open cabinets and turn knobs. I want to know how things work.
- Watch out! I can reach the stove. Turn pot handles to the back.

Let's play

- I run, jump, and climb. Play in the park with me.
- Let's walk to the library to read a book. I can turn the pages one at a time, and name things when you point to them.
- Play makes me forget I am hungry. I may not want to stop for a meal.
- Tell me we will eat soon. Let me draw a picture or work a puzzle while I wait.
- 20 minutes is enough time at the table for me. When I am full, let me go back and play.



Keep me safe and healthy

- At my checkup with the doctor, ask if I need a lead test.
- Watch me in the tub or near water.
- Keep cords up so I cannot pull on them.
- Lock up cleaners, sprays, and medicines.
- Buckle me into a child safety seat before I ride in the car.
- Keep me away from smoke, matches, lighters, and vaping tools. I can be poisoned by swallowing, breathing, or absorbing e-cigarette liquid through my skin or eyes.
- If there is marijuana in the house, especially edibles, please store it where I cannot get it. It can make me dizzy and fall down, sleep so I cannot wake up, and even stop breathing. Take me to the Emergency Room if this happens.
- If you own a gun, please keep it locked in a safe place.
- Keep my screen time to an hour a day.

Help me take care of my teeth

- Please take me to a dentist to be sure my teeth are healthy.
- Brush my teeth, front and back, 2 times a day.
- Use a small, soft toothbrush and a thin smear of fluoride toothpaste.
- Start to floss my teeth for me.
- Do not share forks or spoons with me. It spreads germs that can cause cavities.
- Please help me use a cup just like yours.

