

Inside Play Time

The cold days of winter are coming.

Keep active with your child.

Dress warm and play outside as much as possible.

Children love to play in the rain or snow.

When it's too cold, play inside together.



Play every day!

♥ Invite other children to your home.

Children are more active when playing with other children.

♥ Create a safe play area in your home.

Clear out an area where your child can ride small bikes, push toys, pull wagons and dance. This could be a room, part of a room, garage or basement.

♥ Play 'Hide and Seek' in the house.

There are many places where children can hide. Be sure they are hiding in safe places.

♥ Create a "Play" with your child.

Read one of your child's favorite stories. Let your children be the actors. Small children love to act!

♥ Turn on the radio and dance!

Children love to dance. They may even start singing.

♥ Play with cardboard boxes.

Cardboard boxes can be used to make mini houses and tunnels. Your local store probably has lots of extra boxes for playing.

Be sure to remove any metal parts such as staples that could hurt your child.

♥ Take your child to a library or museum

that offers child activities. It's a great way for your child to play, learn something new, and meet new friends.

Enroll your child in a preschool program such as Head Start.

It's fun to play with other children.

Treasure Hunt

Create a treasure hunt inside your house.

- ☺ Make a list of items for your child to find - his blue shoes, stuffed bear, toy car, mom's purse, or other items.
- ☺ Take pictures of the 'lost' items or draw a picture of the items on a piece of paper.
- ☺ Give a sticker to your child after he finds all the items. Have a small treasure hunt whenever possible.

Shoe Kick-off

Fun activity with shoes or slippers.

- ☺ Sit a large empty basket about 5 feet away from a couch or chair.
- ☺ Ask your child to sit on the couch or chair with his legs dangling down. Put on his shoes partway, so they hang off his toes.
- ☺ Tell your child to try to kick the shoes into the basket. Kick one shoe at a time.
- ☺ Let everyone, including you, try to kick their shoes into the basket. Did anyone get their shoes into the basket?

Enjoy Playtimes with your Children.

Children want to play!

Families need to play!

Plan at least one hour of active play time for your child every day.



Trust your Child's Appetite

Your small child knows how much he should eat.

There will be days when he is growing and will seem to be very hungry.

There will be days when he is not growing as fast and does not need to eat as much.

His appetite can change from day to day.

You may worry that your child does not eat enough at times. Don't worry!

As a parent, you can decide what types of food are offered at meals and snacks.

You can also decide when meals and snacks will happen.

Let your child decide "how much" he will eat.

Let your child stop eating when he is no longer hungry. Your child may not eat every meal or snack.

If you are concerned about how your child is growing or eating, talk to your health care provider.

Small children often become fussy eaters when their parents try to bribe or force them to eat.

These struggles can be so upsetting for your child that he may not recognize his own feelings of hunger and fullness. Help your child develop healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime.

Allow your child to eat when he is hungry and stop eating when he is full.

- ♥ **Do not offer large servings to your child.** Some child will overeat when they are served a large serving. Some children will eat as much as 60 to 80 percent more when servings are super-sized. Other children will eat the same amount if servings are normal sized or super-sized.
- ♥ **Serve food in serving bowls. Allow your child to serve himself whenever possible.** Children who serve themselves tend to not overeat. Let your child decide "how much" he will eat. Every meal is a chance for your child to learn how to feed himself.
- ♥ **Teach your child how to politely refuse food.** Encourage your child to take a small amount of each food, and to taste each food. Let him know that it is okay if he doesn't like every food. Teach him how to say "no thanks" without making bad comments about a certain food.
- ♥ **Let your child ask for second helpings if he wants to eat more.** Remember, there will be days when your child will be in a growth spurt and he will be hungry.
- ♥ **Don't limit food if your child is hungry.** Your child may overeat later if food is refused when he is hungry.
- ♥ **Encourage your child to take small bites and enjoy eating.** Your child could overeat if he takes "big bites". Let your child see you eating slowly and enjoying your food.
- ♥ **Keep meals stress free.** A child's small tummy can become easily upset. Some children react to stress by eating more. Other children eat less when there is stress.



What can you do?

- Be active with my child during the winter months.
- Offer nutritious meals, and trust my child's appetite.
- Play games or dance inside our home.
- Other: _____