

Healthy children in a healthy world.

We advance health and healthy living for children and families through cutting-edge research, innovative community-based programs, and dissemination of evidence-based practices.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



Center Resources























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 This activity provides 1.0 contact hour(s) of nursing professional development.

Requirements for Completion:

- Attend the session
- Complete online evaluation form

Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses
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 Neither the Planning Committee members not the presenters today have disclosed any relevant financial relationships related to the planning or implementation of this CNE activity. We have no COI to disclose to you.

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Attend the session in its entirely



Nourishing Beginnings:

Nourishing Beginnings: Fueling

Healthy Futures in the First 1,000

Days of Life



Nimali Fernando, MD, MPH, FAAP Rupa Mahadevan, MD, FAAP, ABOIM

Disclosures

- The presenter(s) have **no financial relationships** or affiliations with any commercial interests related to this presentation.
- Content is educational and evidence-based, without influence from industry sponsors.
- All recommendations and resources are provided for clinical and educational purposes only.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Describe the importance of nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life from conception through toddlerhood — and identify key nutrients that are critical for growth and development.
- 2. Explain strategies for the timely introduction of complementary foods at approximately 6 months of age and recommend nutrient-dense, foods to support healthy growth, cognitive development, and prevention of common pediatric diagnoses.
- 3. Identify and apply tools and community resources, including programs such as WIC and Head Start, provider nutrition education, and interdisciplinary supports (e.g., speech pathologists), to enhance family access to healthy foods and promote sustained growth and development.



First 1000 days of life

- From Conception through toddlerhood the first 3 years matter
- Maternal nutrient stores (iron, folate, iodine, omega-3s, vitamin D, and choline) are critical for early neurodevelopment and DNA synthesis.
- Encourage whole foods: fruits, vegetables, fermented foods, legumes, and omega-3 sources.
- Limit ultra-processed foods, added sugars, and excessive saturated fats.

Maternal Microbiome: Setting the Stage

The maternal gut microbiome shapes the infant's microbiome through *vertical transmission* during pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding.

A diverse, fiber-rich, minimally processed diet supports beneficial microbial diversity.

Dysbiosis (imbalanced gut bacteria) has been linked to preterm birth, gestational diabetes, and immune dysregulation in the infant.

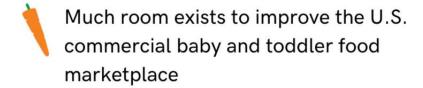
Consider probiotics or fermented foods (e.g., yogurt, kefir, kimchi) for microbiome support.

Maternal Nutrition

- Folic acid: prevents neural tube defects; ideally started ≥3 months preconception.
- Iron & iodine: support oxygen transport and thyroid function essential for brain development.
- Omega-3 fatty acids (DHA): build neuronal membranes, influencing cognition and vision.

Key Findings

The shortcomings of U.S. commercial vegetable offerings



Commercial baby and toddler food product lines lack sufficient variety to facilitate young children's acceptance of veggies

Food products hide or mask the flavor of veggies even when veggies are on the ingredient list

PHA's Review of Evidence to Support Why Young Eaters Need Veggies "Early & Often", 2021







Key Audiences





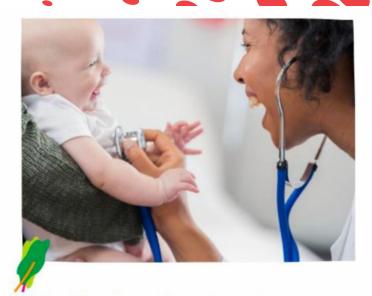


To build partnerships that transform the baby and toddler marketplace through a veggie-forward approach



Early Childhood Education

To improve facility-level policies, practices and environments that drive vegetable procurement, preference and consumption.



Medical professionals

To increase the ability medical professionals to offer anticipatory guidance about raising adventurous eaters.





Food Allergen Exposure Chart

RAISING ADVENTUROUS EATERS





Feeding is a Developmental Process

- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills
- Oral Motor skills
- Language
- Cognitive Skills
- Taste training







Capture the Flavor Window







Introduction to family foods

A small study found that repeated exposure to commercial baby food (peas) did not generalize to homemade versions of the same food.

Birch LL, Gunder L, Grimm-Thomas K, et al. Appetite. 1998;30(3):283-95.

Some Foods Take Practice







Family approach to Vegetable Intake

 Percentage of US children who eat the recommended servings of veggies per day=10%

 Percentage of adults who eat the recommended servings of veggies per day=9.4%

Sharing meals is important



2- to 5-year-old children's liking for vegetables and their vegetable consumption was predicted by eating approximately the same food as their parents.

Caldwell AR, Terhorst L, Skidmore ER, et al., J Hum Nutr Diet. 2018;31(4):505-12.

Modeling is important



When mothers model healthy eating at 1 year there was a higher child frequency of vegetable consumption at 2 years.

Gregory JE, Paxton SJ, Brozovic AM Appetite 2011;57(1):167-72 ■

Feeding Guidance Changes







The Importance of Standardizing Guidance on Starting Solids

- Consistency matters: Families receive mixed messages from providers, leading to confusion and delayed or early introduction of solids.
- **Standardized guidance** ensures alignment with AAP, WHO, and CDC recommendations to begin complementary foods at *around 6 months*.
- **Key goals:** Support optimal growth, prevent iron deficiency, and establish healthy eating habits early.
- Early education: Provider consensus builds caregiver confidence and promotes responsive feeding.

Consistent Messaging is Key to Success

- Introducing solids too early (<4 months) increases risk of obesity and digestive issues, while delaying beyond 6 months can lead to nutrient deficiencies, and speech delay
- A shared framework also supports interdisciplinary collaboration—pediatricians, dietitians, lactation consultants, and speech pathologists reinforcing the same message.
- The result: Improved feeding confidence, better growth outcomes, and stronger caregiver trust in healthcare systems.



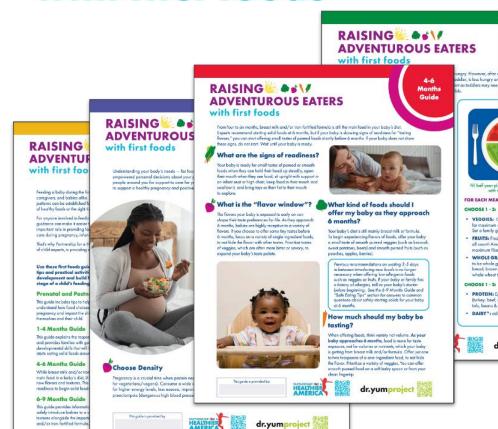






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Feeding a baby during the first 1,000 days — from pregnancy to age two — can be an exciting adventure for parents, caregivers, and babies alike. It's a period of development, learning, and banding. It's also a time when healthy eating partners can be established for life. As the brain and body one rapidly maturing it's important that babies eat a variety of healthy bads at the right time to get the essential nutrients they need.

For anyone involved in feeding little ones — whether that's a parent, caregiver, family member, or friend — timely guidance can make it easier to ravigate the ups and downs of each child's feeding journey. Clinicians can play an important role in providing families with credible education on feeding development since they provide continuity of care during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood.

That's why Partnership for a Healthier America, in collaboration with the Dr. Yum Project and a multideciplinary team of child experts, is providing anticipatory guidance on infant feeding and early veggie introduction.

Use these first foods guides to share proactive tips and practical activities to boost feeding development and build healthy hobits at every stage of a child's feeding journey.

Prenatal and Postnatal Guide

This guide includes tips to help parents and caregivers undentand how lood choices can support a healthy pregnancy and impact the short and long-term health of themselves and their child.

1-4 Months Guide

This guide explains the responsive feeding model and provides families with guidance on how to boost developmental skills that will be helpful when their child starts eating solid foods around & months.

4-6 Months Guide

While breast milk and/or iron-fortilled formula are still the main food in a baby's diet, it is almost time to introduce and not a interested in foods they area liked. This guide new flavors and textures. This guide highlights the signs of readiness to begin solid foods.

6-9 Months Guide

This guide provides information for families on how to safely introduce babies to a variety of new tastes and textures alongside the important rutrients in breast milk and/or iron-fertified formula.



9-12 Months Guide

Toddler Guide

This guide provides tips for families on how to offer a

wide variety of textures and flavor combinations by

enjoying modified family meals and building self



Raising Adventurous Enters with First Foods is an initiative of Partnership for a Healthier America's Veggies Early & Often campaign, in collaboration with the Dr. Yum Project, which aims to raise a generation of adventurous eaters in partnership with health professionals, food manufacturers, and early childhood educators.

For more information, visit www.ahealthieramerica.org/firstfoods

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HEALTHIER

About Partnership for a Healthier America

Partnership for a Healthiar America is the premier rational nonprofit arguinzellon working to create lasting, systemic changes that transform the Soot landscape in pursuit of health equity. PHA develops evidencebased approaches that are implemented in portnership with the private sector, nonprofits, and government, leveraging PHA's assets and the partner's knowledge to accelerate the poace of transformation.

dr.yumproject

About the Dr. Yum Project

The Dr. Yum Project is a pediatrician-led non-profit that empowers families and communities to overcome barriers to eating well through a collection of five tips, octivities and recipes, along with curricula for preachabls and families.

Overview guide

- Series of 7 guides from pregnancy to Toddler
- Multidisciplinary team
- Sensitivity review
- Focus groups
- Intro to PHA and DYP

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with first foods



Prenatal / Postnatal Guide

Understanding your body's needs — for food, sleep, movement and stress reduction — is essential to make empowered personal decisions about your pregnancy. Now is the time to build a support system by engaging the people around you for support to care for your needs, including what food you want to eat. Here are food guidelines to support a healthy pregnancy and positively import the short and long-term health of you and your child.



Choose Color

Increase the variety and quantity of colorful veggies and fruits (aim for a rainbow of foods every day) to not only maximize your nutrient intoke, but to also impact your baby's teste preferences for healthy foods. That's right your baby can "taste" what you're eating via your aminist: Build (the liquid around the baby during pregnancy). This early exposure helps prepare for a non-picky eater.

Choose Quality

Emphasize whole foods such as colorful veggies and fruits, whole grains (oats, whole wheat bread, brown rice), calcium-rich dairy (milk, yogurt, cottage cheese), plant-based and lean animal protein sources (beans, nuts, lean meat), and healthy fat aptions (alive oil, nuts/seeds, eggs, fish, avocados, clives). Choose more foods close to their natural state and limit processed food when you can.

Choose Density

Pregnancy is a crucial time when protein needs are very high and dietary protein deficiency is common (especially for vegetarions, 'vegans). Consume a wide variety of high-quality protein (lean meat, eggs, dairy, beans, nuts) for higher energy levels, less nausea, improved development and birth weight for your baby, and lower risk of presclampia: (dangerous high blood pressure during pregnancy).

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Prenatal/ postnatal guide

- Choices to support pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Key nutrients
- Hydration
- Short and long-term impacts of nutrition

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1-4 months guide

- Responsive feeding
- Feeding FAQs
- Current guidance on when/how to introduce solids
- Developing skills for future feeding

ADVENTUROUS EATERS

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4-6 Months Guide

with first foods

From four to six months, breast milk and/or iron-fortified formula is still the main food in your baby's diet. Experts recommend starting solid foods at 6 months, but if your boby is showing signs of readiness for "tasting flavors," you can start offering small tastes of pureed foods shortly before 6 months. If your baby does not show these signs, do not start. Wait until your baby is ready.

What are the signs of readiness?

Your baby is ready for small tastes of pursed or smooth foods when they can hold their head up steadily, open their mouth when they see food, sit upright with support in an infant seat or high chair, keep food in their mouth and swallow it, and bring toys or their fist to their mouth.



The flavors your baby is exposed to early on can shape their taste preferences for life. As they approach 6 months, babies are highly receptive to a variety of flavors. If you choose to offer some tiny tastes before 6 months, focus on a variety of single ingredient foods. to not hide the flavor with other tastes. Prioritize tastes of veggies, which are often more bitter or savory, to expand your baby's taste palate.



How much should my baby be tasting?

What kind of foods should I

6 months?

peaches, apples, berries).

offer my baby as they approach

Your baby's diet is still mainly breast milk or formula.

To begin experiencing flavors of foods, offer your baby

a small taste of smooth pureed veggies (such as broccol),

sweet potatoes, beets) and smooth pureed fruits (such as

Previous recommendations on waiting 3-5 days

in between introducing new foods is no langer necessary when offering law allergenic foods

such as veggies or fruits. If your baby or family has a history of allergies, talk to your baby's doctor

before beginning. See the 6-9 Months Guide and

"Safe Eating Tips" section for answers to common

questions about safely starting solids for your baby

When offering foods, think variety not volume. As your baby approaches 6 months, food is more for taste exposure, not for calories or nutrients, which your boby is getting from breast milk and/or formula. Offer just one to two teaspoons of a one-ingredient food, to not hide the flavor. Prioritize a variety of veggies. You can offer smooth pureed food on a soft baby spoon or from your

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4-6 Months Guide breast milk: RAISING all milk expressed through **ADVENTUROUS EATERS** breastleeding, chestleeding or pumping with first foods Why does my baby make a When do I offer allergenic face when tasting food? foods? Sometimes babies make faces when they try certain Wait until your boby is 6 months old to introduce the top. foods. These expressions do not mean they don't like 9 foods that often cause allergies (dairy, egg, peanut, these foods. It is often just a reaction to a new and tree nut, say, wheat, fish, shellfish, sesame). Research different texture. Offer another taste, and if your boby shows that this early exposure, and continued regular opens their mouth, you know they want more! Often fruits exposure, helps to reduce the risk of developing severe are easy for bobies to enjoy because of their sweetness. food allergies. Talk to your pediatrician and see the 6-9 Bitter or savory foods like some veggies may take more Months Guide and "Safe Eating Tips" section for answers practice before your baby appears to like them. Make to common questions about safely starting solids, sure to offer those more often. including allergenic foods, for your baby at 6 months.

Boosting Feeding Development

- 1. ORAL MOTOR SKILLS: When babies nibble on their fingers, hands, and teethers, they are learning to fine tune their jaw movements and explore with their mouths. You can help babies enjoy this time of exploration by affering a variety of safe teethers in many different shapes and textures.
- 2. GROSS MOTOR SKILLS: Encourage your boby to roll with supervised "tummy time." First they will roll from belly to back and then eventually from back to belly. This time will help them build their core muscles so they can sit up and eat solid foods as they approach 6 months.
- FINE MOTOR SKILLS: Encourage your baby to grab anto teethers or other safe toys. This skill will be important as they learn to hold a spoon once they have started eating solids around 6 months.
- 4. COGNITIVE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Talk to your baby face to face, pausing occasionally to watch and respond to their attempts to communicate back to you. You are getting these skills ready for sharing conversation during meals together, so keep distractions like screen time to a minimum and enjoy the connections you make with your boby.
- 5. TASTE TRAINING: If you try tastes of different flavors close to 6 months. notice what they immediately accept and reject. Make sure to offer foods like veggies with more bitter or sour tastes more frequently than fruits, once you start feeding solids regularly at 6 months.

The information contented in this goods should not be used on a substitute for the medical core and others of your pediatrics

Contributors: Carmen Berry, MPH, RD, LD; Kofi Essel, MD, MPH, FAAP; Nimali Fernando, MD, MPH, FAAP; Rupa Mohadevan, MD, FAAP, ABOIM, Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SUP

4-6 months guide

- Signs of readiness
- Repetition of flavor
- Single ingredient veggies in first tastes
- Strategies to begin to raise vegetable lovers

RAISING **ADVENTUROUS EATERS**

with first foods



Months Guide

with first foods

Now your baby is ready to be a true food explorer! This is the time to introduce many new flavors and textures. With practice, babies will accept these new foods and will ask for more. Simple modifications to family meals is a great way for your baby to build new skills and become an adventurous eater.

What Foods Do I Offer?

- Introduce small amounts of a wide variety of fruits, veggies, proteins, and grains in a rainbow of colors. Fruits and veggies have a low risk of allergic reactions and don't have to be introduced
- · For detailed information on introducing common high-allergen foods (dairy, egg, peanut, tree nut, soy, wheat, fish, shellfish, sesame), talk to your pediatrician and see the section on "Safe Eating
- . Offer plenty of iron-rich foods like meats, legumes, green veggies, and iron fortified cereals.
- . Spices like cinnamon, pepper, curry, garlic powder, and fresh or dried herbs like basil and parsley are a great way to introduce more flavors.
- . Continue offering foods many times in rotation. It may take babies 8-10 tries over multiple days or weeks to embrace the flavors of some foods like
- When using store-bought boby foods, select products with over 50% veggies or singlevegetable purees to help train babies' taste buds. Fruit and veggie blends may hide the flavor of

LOOK FOR THIS ICON to use PHA's icon

contain over

50% veggies

and no additives

Veggies Early &





How Much Do I Offer?

- . From 6-9 months, offer 3 meals per day at family mealtimes starting at 2-3 tablespoons of pureed (smoothly blended) or soft foods and gradually reaching about 15 a cup. Remember you are feeding responsively, so it's ak if your baby doesn't eat the full amount. Babies decide how much they'd like to eat and when they are full.
- At this age, it is important that babies have enough hunger for the important calories, fat, protein, and other nutrients from breast milk and/or formula. Consider offering solid foods after or between breast milk or formula feedings.
- Respect your baby's hunger cues. When they turn their face, close their mouth when food approaches. and/or lose interest, they are likely done eating.

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6-9 months guide

- How to safely introduce a variety of tastes and textures
- Nutrients in breastmilk and/or iron-fortified formula
- High-allergen foods
- Proper positioning in a feeding chair

ADVENTUROUS EATERS

with first foods

ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

Eating Tips

Keeping your baby safe while eating is a top priority. Here are safe eating tips to address some of the most common questions parents and caregivers might encounter from the start of introducing solid foods through the first year of your boby's life.

How to Serve Foods Safely

To determine if a food is safe for your baby to eat, ask yourself. Can baby break it down easily with just their gums? Is it easily squished between your finger and frumb? In addition to offering pureed or blended foods, here are 6 ways to cut saft and safe foods for baby:



MATCHSTICKS: Soft, fresh foods with skins removed and cut into small, nonageable sivers (example: peeled fresh cucumber or apple)



HANDHELDS: Larger but very soft pieces held in boby's entire hand to explore and bite (example: chunks of mosted butternut sourch?



SHREDDED: Offer moist, tender foods that pull apart easily into Kny shreds. (example: soft cooked ground beef or



SMASHED: A quick "smash" on a round food can prevent choking yet still allow baby to pick it up with ease Smashed foods can also be presented on a preloaded stensil for self-feeding (example: cooked bears or soft sweet



PINKY STRIPS: Soft, moist foods that baby can grow and still manage small pieces that break off. Tip! Roll in breadcrumbs to make the food less slippery for baby's grasp. (example: strips of roasted succhini or avocadal



PEA-SIZED CUBES: Boby will roke up a few soft cubes at this age. Offer soft fresh foods or cooked foods, never offer hard cubes (e.g., hard cheeses) that could lodge in baby's airway if accidentally swallowed whole. (example: kiwi or soft

What To Avoid Before 1 Year

FOODS: Some foods have a higher risk for food poisoning and severe illness in young children with developing immune systems. These foods to avoid include honey, deli meats (hot dags, salami, balogna, deli turkey, etc.), raw or undercooked eggs or meats, and unpasteurized or raw dairy products or cheeses. Items with milk products should say "pasteurized milk" in the ingredient list on the label.

BEVERAGES: A boby's primary source of nutrition and hydration in the first year is breast milk and/or infant formula. Plain water may be introduced in small amounts starting at 6 months. Other types of beverages such as milk, juice, and sugar sweetened drinks should not be offered to babies under the age of 12 months.

This guide is provided by:





Safe Eating Tips

RAISING ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

Choking vs Gagging: Keeping an Eye on Baby

- . Gagging is nature's way of trying to protect your boby's airway. For babies who are just starting solids, gagging is a natural response to new tastes, new textures, and subife temperature changes.
- · A choking child may appear panicked, wide-eyed with an open mouth and draoling, and progressing to bluish skin in or around their lips, gums, fingemails, or eyes. Audible gasps, faint noises, or wheezing may be detected, but typically there is little sound because the airway is blacked. Ask your pediatrician about CPR training in your area before starting solid foods with your baby.
- . Common food choking hazards to avoid whole nuts and seeds (peanuts, sunflower seeds, almonds), hard uncooked vegetables (carrots, celery), round foods (whole blueberries, grapes, or beans). popcorn, hot dogs, hard fresh fruit (chunks of apple), large chunks of cheese (string cheese). spoonfuls of nut and seed butters (undiluted peanut butter), candy (hard candy, jelly beans, fruit snacks).

Pacifier and Feeding Development

- . During the first 6 months, pacifiers are helpful for soothing and decreasing the chance of SIDS, the sudden, unexpected and unexplained death of an apparently healthy boby. Extended use may lead to feeding and swallowing problems and can pose a safety risk. It could even impact your baby's facial
- O Stop daytime use of the pacifier by 6 months of age to avoid mouth injuries from falling with a pacifier in the mouth.
- Stop using a pacifier for naps/nightlime around 12 months. This will help them develop a mature swallow pattern to safely advance to a variety of textured foods.

top 9 food allergens

Food Allergens

Between 6-12 months, one by one, introduce the top 9 food allergens, foods that have the highest rates of food allergies, including dairy, egg, peanut, tree nut, soy, wheat, fish, shellfish, and sesame. Research shows that early exposure, and continued regular exposure, helps to reduce the risk of developing severe food allergies.

- *Talk to your pediatricion if you have concerns about introducing these foods or if you have a family history of food allergies.
- Make these foods baby friendly. For example, take a teaspoon of smooth peanut butter and dilute it in a teaspoon or more of warm water so it is not as sticky and thick, which could be a choking hazard
- Ideally, pick a time when your baby will be awake for about two hours so that you can monitor for reactions. Wait at least two to three days between introducing new allergenic foods and watch for symptoms such as:
- O Skin: rash; itching; swelling of lips, tongue, face
- O Color Change: bluish, flushed, or pale color. for babies with darker skin, look for color changes in the lips, gums, tangue, and/or
- Lungs: coughing, wheezing, trouble breathing
- Digestive system: vomiting, diarrhea
- Nervous system: drowsiness

Call your baby's doctor with any mild symptoms such as rash or itching. Call 911 or visit the emergency room for any severe reactions

The information contained in this guide should not be used as a substant for the medical saw and advice of your pediatrals. There may be resistants in heatment that over pediatrician may recommend based as individual facts and obscentances.

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Safe eating tips

- How to prepare and serve foods safely
- Foods to avoid before age 1
- Introduction to food allergens by age 1
- Choking v. gagging when advancing textures



How to Serve Foods Safely

To determine if a food is safe for your baby to eat, ask yourself: Can baby break it down easily with just their gums? Is it easily squished between your finger and thumb? In addition to offering pureed or blended foods, here are 6 ways to cut soft and safe foods for baby:



MATCHSTICKS: Soft, fresh foods with skins removed and cut into small, manageable slivers (example: peeled fresh cucumber or apple)



HANDHELDS: Larger but very soft pieces held in baby's entire hand to explore and bite (example: chunks of roasted butternut squash)



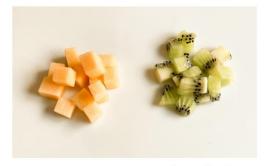
SHREDDED: Offer moist, tender foods that pull apart easily into tiny shreds. (example: soft cooked ground beef or salmon)



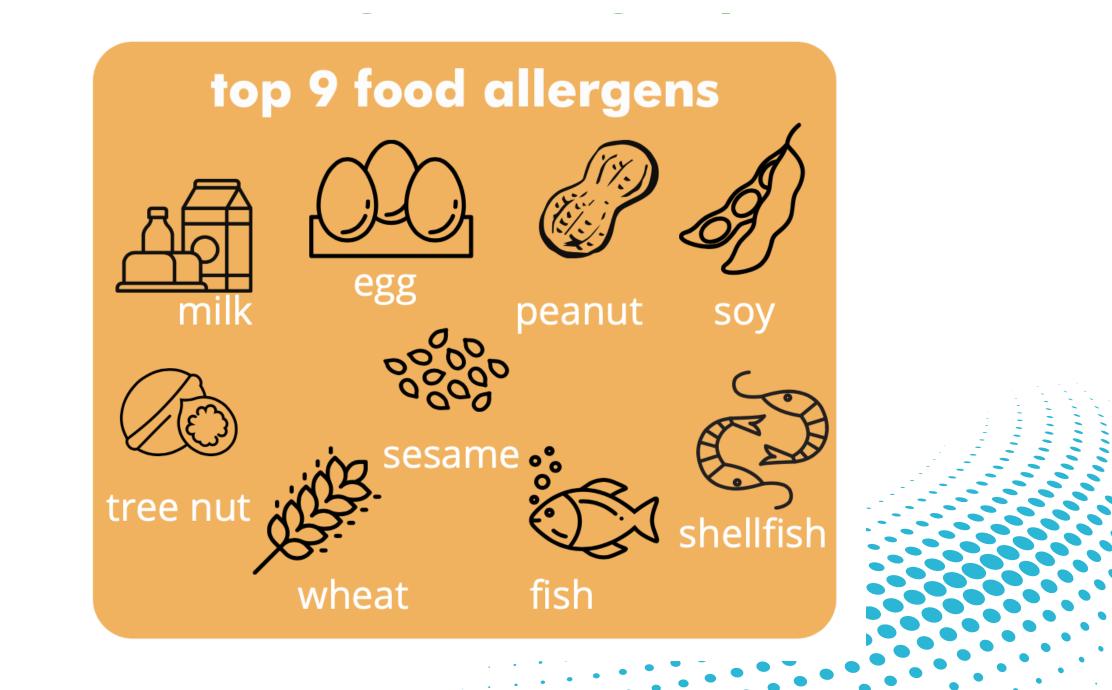
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PEA-SIZED CUBES: Baby will rake up a few soft cubes at this age. Offer soft fresh foods or cooked foods, never offer hard cubes (e.g., hard cheeses) that could lodge in baby's airway if accidentally swallowed whole. (example: kiwi or soft melon)



Food Allergen Exposure Chart

When first introducing the following 9 high-allergen foods, give 1-2 teaspoons of any one high-allergen food for 2-3 days before moving on to the next high-allergen food.

Record the date you presented the food in the blocks below. Use the notes section to write down some of the ways you explored these foods or how your baby responded.

See the previous page for signs of food allergy and how you should respond.

Food	Day #1	Day #1 Day #2		Examples		
Peanut	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Smooth peanut butter (with no added sugar) thinned with water, breast milk or formula		
Eggs	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Thoroughly cooked scrambled or smashed boiled eggs, baked foods with eggs		
Milk	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Full-fat yogurt (with no added sugar), finely shredded cheese		
Wheat	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Mixed grain cereals thinned with formula or breast milk, whole wheat toast		
Soy	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Soft, smashed tofu, pureed or smashed edamame		
Treenuts	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Smooth nut butter (with no added sugar) thinned with water, breastmilk or formula		
Fish	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Low-mercury fish (like tilapia, salmon, or trout) cooked & finely flaked with bones removed		
Shellfish	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Very finely chopped shrimp, crabmeat, lobster or crawfish, mixed with a small amount of puree for easy swallowing		
Sesame	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Date Tsp	Tahini paste (sesame puree) thinned and mixed with other purees, hummus with tahini		

ONCE THE 3 DAYS ARE COMPLETE, MAKE SURE TO CONTINUE FREQUENT EXPOSURE TO EACH OF THESE HIGH-ALLERGEN FOODS AT LEAST 2 TIMES A WEEK OR MORE.

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Allergy Exposure Chart

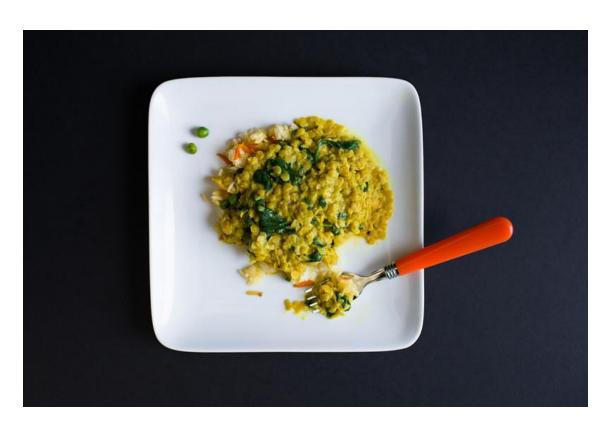
- Recommend trying a new high allergen food 2-3 days before moving on
- Can offer real foods
- Gives things to look for if baby shows sign of food allergy

Iron-Rich Foods

- Meats
- Legumes
- Fish
- Beans
- Tofu
- Green veggies
- Iron-fortified cereals



Encourage Cultural Foods





ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

9-12 Months Guide

Now is the time for your baby to move past purees and smashed foods to begin exploring a wide variety of textures and flavor combinations by enjoying modified versions of family meals. Engage your baby in mealtime conversations and embrace the mess, as your baby is learning how to self feed at this age.

What Foods Do I Offer?

- VARIETY: Continue to offer a variety of fruits, veggies, proteins, and grains in a rainbow of colors. Share family meals together with recipes that have more combined ingredients, flavors, and spices. If your child chooses not to eat certain veggies or fruits, continue offering them multiple times on other days. Sometimes up to 8-10 tries to help with taste
- TEXTURE: By 9 months, make sure your boby has moved on from pureed or smooth foods to chewing a variety of soft bite-sized or handheld foods. Storebought purees and pouches can be an easy way to feed your baby, but limit them to times when they may be needed for convenience, or use as a dip for more
- . ALLERGENIC FOODS: By 9 months, your boby may have tried all 9 of the high-allergen foods: dairy, egg, peanut, tree nut, say, wheat, fish, shellfish, sesame. Once a high-allergen food is introduced, it is important to maintain it in your baby's diet on a regular basis. Early and constant exposure has been shown to reduce the risk of developing food allergies later.
- READ LABELS: Se gware that many convenient toddler "snack foods" like cheese puffs, fruitflavored gummy snacks, yagurt melts, and toddler prepackaged meals may have more added salt and sugar than what is recommended for that age. Try to limit using them.

LOOK FOR THIS ICON

and no additive

Veggies Early & use PHA's icon contain APPROVED Often over 50% veggies





How Much Do I Offer?

- Around 9 months, most bobies eat 3-5 small meals or snacks, spread throughout the day. Offer about 1/2 a cup of a variety of foods per meal.
- . Babies still need breastmilk or formula for calories and nutrition but may be slowly replacing bottles with solid food. Consider offering meals or snacks before formula and/or breast milk as your child's interest shifts to solid foods.
- Remember to look for hunger and fullness cues. Trust your baby to regulate their own food intake and do not pressure them to take more bites.



RAISING ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods How Do I Offer Foods? . Instead of being spoon fed or handed foods, at 9 months babies should be mostly picking up foods. and spoons and feeding themselves. Continue close supervision while serving finger foods. Boosting Embrace the mess. Allowing babies to get messy Feeding Development during meal times helps with sensory development and lets them become more familiar and comfortable 1. ORAL MOTOR SKILLS: Al 9 months, babies with foods with a variety of textures. If they start develop more of a circular or ratary chew when throwing food, it may mean they are done eating eating. If their chew appears to be more of an up and ready to get down from their chair. and down or "squish with the tangue and swallow" . Feed your baby modified versions of your family. pattern, you can encourage better chewing by meals so they can get used to the ways you season placing a soft food item directly on the jaw in the back of their mouth where their new molars will soon foods. It also helps reduce the need to prepare multiple meals now and in the future. This may mean oppear. Press firmly to help your child feel the food. chapping an ingredient smaller or cooking it slightly and to prompt that first chew. langer so it is soft. Babies under 12 months old need 2. GROSS MOTOR SKILLS: Spend plenty of very little sadium, so set aside your baby's meal time playing on the floor and encourage babies portion before seasoning with salt for the rest of to attempt to crawl, pull up to stand, take steps holding onto furniture and eventually take steps independently. These activities strengthen leg, arm, What About Drinks? and care muscles (chest, belly, & back) and will help . Your baby is still consuming breast milk and/or them to feel stable as they sit in a feeding chair and formula for colories, hydration, and nutrition. Wait until 12 months to substitute some or all of this intake with 3. FINE MOTOR SKILLS: The "raking" movement whole cow's milk. At one year of age, more calories with their whole hand gradually turns into a pincer will come from solids than whole milk or breast milk. Talk to your child's doctor if you have any questions grasp, where they canmore precisely grab and or concerns about stopping bottles or using an release food with their thumb and pointer finger. ollemotive milk. Help your baby learn to dip and scoop with a spoon by gently guiding their spoon as they hold it. . Offer up to a max of 8 ounces of water for the full 4. COGNITIVE AND COMMUNICATION day in a small open cup or straw cup. This water is important to help support healthy digestion and may **SKILLS:** Bobies at this age are beginning to even prevent chronic constipation. understand language more than they can express it. Continue talking about what you are doing . Milk, juice, and other beverages (carbonated soft throughout the day such as naming foods when drinks, tea, etc.) should not be offered to bobies under grocery shopping or preparing meals. Engage your baby in family meal conversations. SCAN THIS OR CODE FOR IDEAS AND RECIPES FOR FINGER FOODS:

The information compared in this guide should not be used as a substitute for the medical case and advice of your pediatricia

Contributors: Carmen Berry, MPH, RD, LD; Kofi Essel, MD, MPH, FAAP; Nimali Fernando, MD, MPH, FAAP; Rupa Mahadevan, MD, FAAP, ABOIM; Melanie Potock, MA, CCC-SLP

9-12 months guide

Key takeaways

- How to offer a variety of finger foods
- Self feeding skills
- Limiting pouches
- Reading labels on toddler snacks
- Cup drinking skills

ADVENTUROUS EATERS

with first foods

12-15 Mantha Guide RAISING

ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

12-15 Mantha Guide

RAISING **ADVENTUROUS EATERS**

RAISING ADVENTUROUS EATERS with first foods

During your boby's first year, growth is fast so they are very hungry. However, after age one, growth and metabolism slow down. You might notice your baby, now a toddler, is less hungry and not as interested in every med. They may not enjoy foods that they ance liked. Be patient as toddfers may need the same kind of practice with foods, like veggies, as they did when they first started solids.

What to Eat & How Much

- Offer 3 meals (14-1 cup of load per meal) and 2. snacks. Continue to share family meals with your
- . Start with small portions, such as 2 tablespoons of each food, and offer more if they are still hungry. Some days they may eat very little, and some days they may eat a lot. This is normal, so try not to pressure your child to eat more.
- . Aim for at least three food groups at meals and at least two food groups at snacks. Prioritize meals/ snacks that include protein or dairy [which contain healthy fats) and fiber-rich carbohydrates (veggies, fruits, and whole grains) to help kids get a variety of nutrients and feel fuller, longer.
- . Limit use of toddler prepackaged snocks like yagurt malts, crockers, and puffs which may have too much added salt or sugar.
- . Continue to prepare food safely to avoid choking. hazards: chop or grind up whole nuts, cut hard uncooked veggies into thin strips or cook until soft (carrets, celery), slice trry round foods in half (blueberries) and larger round foods in quarters (gropes, cherry tomatoes), cut hot dogs into thin half moon slices, thirty slice hard hesh fruit [apple], shred or thinly slice cheese, thinly spread nut and seed butters onto toast or other foods, avoid popcom and some types of condy thard condy, jelly beans, fruit snacks, gummy or sticky condyl-

*If your child requires on alternative milk, talk to your pediatrician about what choices are qualiable and how to make sure there is enough for and nutrients in their diet



fill half your plate at each eating appartunity with vegetables and fruits

FOR EACH MEAL OR SNACK ...

CHOOSE 1 - 3

- . VEGGIES: Offer a tainbow of colors every day for maximum exposure to flavors and nutrients. Set a family goal to try a new reggie each week!
- . FRUITS: Fresh, frozen, or conned in luice all count! Aim for a variety of whole fruits for maximum fiber and nutrients, not luice.
- . WHOLE GRAINS: Aim for at least half of grains to be whole grains each day foots, whole wheat bread, brown rice, whole grain pasts, corn or whole wheat fortillas, whole grain pits or noon).

CHOOSE 1 - 2

- PROTEIN: Eggs, ground or shredded means (turkey, beef, chicken, pork, lamb), fish & shelfish, tofu, begas & lentils, nut or seed butter
- . DAIRY*1 milk, cottage cheese, yogurt, cheese

to Toddler Eating

" to eat. Your toddler decides to eat and "how much." Offer a of foods, including something eat and a few new foods to try.

will show new preferences ng foods they once enjoyed. It's rotating foods, like veggies, onto on learn to accept them again.

It touch their veggies, it's okey to ne fovorite foods such as blending sauce or butternut squash into also keep them in plain sight over time they will feel more ing them by touching, smelling, inally eating them!

ck to a schedule of eating, and cking or "grazing" between set v 2-3 hours between each meal child can develop hunger for the

ando, MD, MPH, FAAP.

Development

12-15 Months Guide

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR MORE RECIPES

nt of alive al. When vegetables are soft, add chapped ool a bit. In a large mixing bowl, place 2 pounds of lean

fic powder. Add ketchup, mustard, Worcestershire sauce ther using your hands or a potato masher. Using a small

ik spray. Bake mearballs for 15 minutes, then turn them

teeny tny meatbalk to help your bally practice self-

Pulse just till chapped finely. Wix in the remaining

nch ruggem. Heat oil in a skillet. Flatten each rugge

or baby to pick up and chew. If serving larger pieces

tes for their stage of eating.

easily be packed for lunch

1. ORAL MOTOR SKILLS: Stop using Prolonged bottle use puts children at higher risk. for ear infections, cavities, and delayed and

Boosting Feeding

- 2. GROSS MOTOR SKILLS: By 12 months of age, some children are walking but don't rush it. Crawling and/or cruising along furniture helps them develop the tiny muscles in the hands that allow them to hold utensils.
- 3. FINE MOTOR SKILLS: Food placed into portitioned plates and ice cube trave can help children develop spoon and fork skills because the edges of the partitions provide a barrier as they scoop or pierce soft foods. Use a small child's safety fork with rounded tips.
- 4. COGNITIVE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS: At this age, children con imitate gestures and may be able to communicate back to you in their own way. When talking to your child, remember to pouse after each question for at least 3 seconds to allow them time to process the information and attempt to respond. For example, ask if they want more food. Even a smile is a response, so never withhold food if they cannot gesture or talk yet

to your pediatrician about what choices are available rough fat and nutrients in their diet

Toddler guide

Key takeaways

- Why toddlers may be less interested in food
- Balanced meals with appropriate portions
- Discontinuing bottles and pacifiers
- Tips for a positive mealtime environment











PARENT DECIDES

What to eat
When to eat
Where to eat

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY

from Ellyn Satter





CHILD DECIDES
Whether to eat
How much to eat

Set a Feeding Schedule

MORNING FEEDING

"Growing time" 2-2.5 hours

MORNING SNACK

"Growing time" 2-2.5 hours

LUNCHTIME FEEDING

"Growing time" 2-2.5 hours

AFTERNOON SNACK

"Growing time" 2-2.5 hours

DINNER FEEDING

Some Signs of Feeding Disorder



INFANTS

- Excessive gagging
- Inability to advance to advance past purees
- Not initiating self-feeding
- Failure to thrive

TODDLERS

- Very limited food choices
- Acting out at mealtime
- Failure to thrive

CHILDREN

- Avoidance of food
- Limited, specific food choices
- Inability to engage in activities with foods
- Overweight or underweight
- Stressful mealtimes!

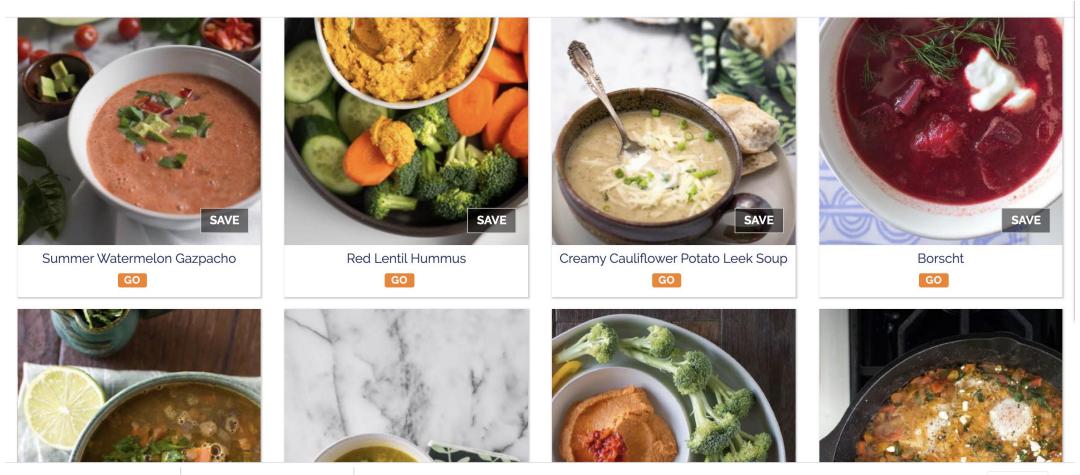




dr. yum's food adventure

Raising a Generation of Food Explorers

Baby Food Options on doctoryum.org



"WIC Food Package" on doctoryum.org







Spaghetti Frittata



Cheesy Green Faas



Roasted Broccoli with Lemon and

Empower Families & Elevate Skills

- Shared Medical Visits Group visits at 4, 6, 9, and 12 months with a Registered Dietitian
- Food Access Programs On-site Food Pantry and Food FARMacy
- Culinary Medicine Demonstrations Interactive cooking sessions in the waiting room
- Patient Education Materials Recipes and nutrientdense snack ideas provided at every visit
- Community Outreach Connecting families with local resources and support programs

Resources for Families:

- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children): Nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and food packages for pregnant women, infants, and young children.
- Head Start / Early Head Start: Early learning and nutrition services for low-income families.
- **HealthyChildren.org (AAP):** Trusted parent-friendly information on feeding milestones and starting solids.
- MyPlate.gov: Visual tools and culturally adaptable meal ideas for families.
- Feeding Matters / Solid Starts: Practical resources on feeding readiness, textures, and responsive feeding.
- Local resources: <u>Nourish Program</u>, <u>Brighter Bites</u>, Food pantries, community gardens, hospital-based culinary medicine or cooking classes, <u>Common Threads</u>
- Doctor Yum Project: doctoryum.org, Meal-o-Matic, "favorite foods" Babyfoodoptions

Questions?

Post your Questions in the Q&A!



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- Please download your certificate before exiting the evaluation.

CHES/MCHES® credit

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RD/RDN CPEUs

 Once approved, you will receive a certificate following the webinar if you indicated upon registering that you would like to request RD/RDN CPEUs. Please note that takes 4-6 weeks for the CDR to review the applications





Thank you for attending!

Scan the QR code below to register for upcoming ones!

Navigating Holiday Meals: Culinary Strategies for Blood Sugar Control

Tue Nov 11 12 pm CT



https://go.uth.edu/holiday-meals-diabetes-awareness

Breakthrough Randomized Controlled Trial Results on CATCH My Breath

Tue Nov 20 12 pm CT



https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i47RiSVsS0exwBpT0w5NKw

