BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ➤ PARENT

7 AND 8 YEAR VISITS

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

### HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- Encourage your child to be independent and responsible. Hug and praise her.
- Spend time with your child. Get to know her friends and their families.
- Take pride in your child for good behavior and doing well in school.
- Help your child deal with conflict.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Don’t smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free.
- Don’t use alcohol or drugs. If you’re worried about a family member’s use, let us know, or reach out to local or online resources that can help.
- Put the family computer in a central place.
  - Know who your child talks with online.
  - Install a safety filter.

### YOUR GROWING CHILD

- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Be a good role model.
- Don’t hit or allow others to hit.
- Help your child do things for himself.
- Discuss rules and consequences with your child.
- Be aware of puberty and changes in your child’s body.
- Use simple responses to answer your child’s questions.
- Talk with your child about what worries him.

### STAYING HEALTHY

- Take your child to the dentist twice a year.
- Give a fluoride supplement if the dentist recommends it.
- Help your child brush her teeth twice a day
  - After breakfast
  - Before bed
- Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste with fluoride.
- Help your child floss her teeth once a day.
- Encourage your child to always wear a mouth guard to protect her teeth while playing sports.
- Encourage healthy eating by
  - Eating together often as a family
  - Serving vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean protein, and low-fat or fat-free dairy
  - Limiting sugars, salt, and low-nutrient foods
- Limit screen time to 2 hours (not counting schoolwork).
- Don’t put a TV or computer in your child’s bedroom.
- Consider making a family media use plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.
- Encourage your child to play actively for at least 1 hour daily.

### SCHOOL

- Help your child get ready for school. Use the following strategies:
  - Create bedtime routines so he gets 10 to 11 hours of sleep.
  - Offer him a healthy breakfast every morning.
- Attend back-to-school night, parent-teacher events, and as many other school events as possible.
- Talk with your child and child’s teacher about bullies.
- Talk with your child’s teacher if you think your child might need extra help or tutoring.
- Know that your child’s teacher can help with evaluations for special help, if your child is not doing well in school.

**Helpful Resources:**
- Family Media Use Plan: [www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan](http://www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan)
- Smoking Quit Line: 800-784-8669
- Information About Car Safety Seats: [www.safercar.gov/parents](http://www.safercar.gov/parents)
- Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236

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7 AND 8 YEAR VISITS—PARENT

SAFETY

▪ The back seat is the safest place to ride in a car until your child is 13 years old.
▪ Your child should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belts fit.
▪ Teach your child to swim and watch her in the water.
▪ Use a hat, sun protection clothing, and sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on her exposed skin. Limit time outside when the sun is strongest (11:00 am–3:00 pm).
▪ Provide a properly fitting helmet and safety gear for riding scooters, biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
▪ If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
▪ Teach your child plans for emergencies such as a fire. Teach your child how and when to dial 911.
▪ Teach your child how to be safe with other adults.
  ◦ No adult should ask a child to keep secrets from parents.
  ◦ No adult should ask to see a child’s private parts.
  ◦ No adult should ask a child for help with the adult’s own private parts.

Consistent with Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 4th Edition

For more information, go to https://brightfutures.aap.org.
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### TAKING CARE OF YOU

- If you get angry with someone, try to walk away.
- Don't try cigarettes or e-cigarettes. They are bad for you. Walk away if someone offers you one.
- Talk with us if you are worried about alcohol or drug use in your family.
- Go online only when your parents say it's OK. Don't give your name, address, or phone number on a Web site unless your parents say it's OK.
- If you want to chat online, tell your parents first.
- If you feel scared online, get off and tell your parents.
- Enjoy spending time with your family. Help out at home.

### HANDLING FEELINGS

- Talk about your worries. It helps.
- Talk about feeling mad or sad with someone who you trust and listens well.
- Ask your parent or another trusted adult about changes in your body.
- Even questions that feel embarrassing are important. It's OK to talk about your body and how it's changing.

### EATING WELL AND BEING ACTIVE

- Brush your teeth at least twice each day, morning and night.
- Floss your teeth every day.
- Wear a mouth guard when playing sports.
- Eat breakfast every day.
- Be a healthy eater. It helps you do well in school and sports.
  - Have vegetables, fruits, lean protein, and whole grains at meals and snacks.
  - Eat when you're hungry. Stop when you feel satisfied.
  - Eat with your family often.
- If you drink fruit juice, drink only 1 cup of 100% fruit juice a day.
- Limit high-fat foods and drinks such as candies, snacks, fast food, and soft drinks.
- Have healthy snacks such as fruit, cheese, and yogurt.
- Drink at least 3 glasses of milk daily.
- Turn off the TV, tablet, or computer. Get up and play instead.
- Go out and play several times a day.

### DOING WELL AT SCHOOL

- Try to do your best at school. Doing well in school helps you feel good about yourself.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Find clubs and teams to join.
- Tell kids who pick on you or try to hurt you to stop. Then walk away.
- Tell adults you trust about bullies.
PLAYING IT SAFE

- Make sure you’re always buckled into your booster seat and ride in the back seat of the car. That is where you are safest.
- Wear your helmet and safety gear when riding scooters, biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
- Ask your parents about learning to swim. Never swim without an adult nearby.
- Always wear sunscreen and a hat when you’re outside. Try not to be outside for too long between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm, when it’s easy to get a sunburn.
- Don’t open the door to anyone you don’t know.
- Have friends over only when your parents say it’s OK.
- Ask a grown-up for help if you are scared or worried.
- It is OK to ask to go home from a friend’s house and be with your mom or dad.
- Keep your private parts (the parts of your body covered by a bathing suit) covered.
- Tell your parent or another grown-up right away if an older child or a grown-up
  - Shows you his or her private parts.
  - Asks you to show him or her yours.
  - Touches your private parts.
  - Scares you or asks you not to tell your parents.
  - If that person does any of these things, get away as soon as you can and tell your parent or another adult you trust.
- If you see a gun, don’t touch it. Tell your parents right away.

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