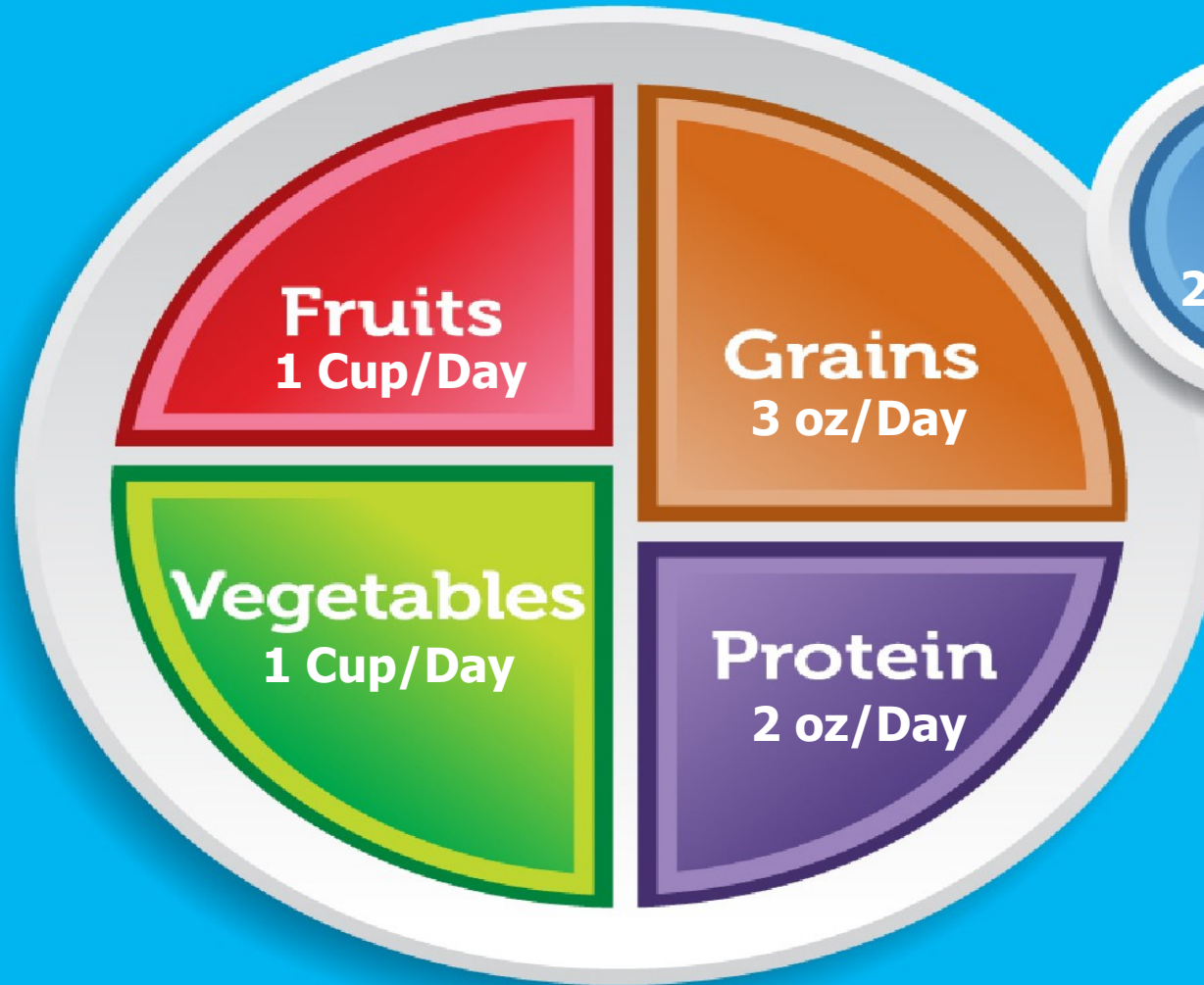


# Toddler



Vary Your Veggies!

Focus on Fruits!

Half Your Grains Whole!

Go Lean With Protein!

Get Calcium-Rich Foods!

## Serving Sizes

### Dairy

- 2 cups cottage cheese
- 8 oz yogurt
- 1 1/2 oz cheese
- 1 cup milk

### Grains:

- 1 slice bread
- 1/2 cup rice, pasta, or oatmeal
- 6 inch tortilla

### Protein

- 1 oz meat, poultry or fish
- 1/4 cup dry beans
- 1 Tbsp peanut butter
- 1 egg
- 1/2 oz nuts
- 1/4 cup tofu

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## Division of Responsibility

- Toddlers are responsible for:
  - How Much - How much, if any, to take
  - What - Choosing, of the foods offered, what they would like to eat
- Parents and Caregivers are responsible for:
  - What is Offered - Offering healthy foods
  - When Offered - Providing regularly scheduled meals and snack times
  - Where Offered - Offering a pleasant, calm and safe meal setting

## Good Choices

- Let your toddler's appetite be the guide for how much to offer
- Whole milk is recommended until your toddler is 2 years old
- Serve milk and juice with meals. Satisfy thirst at other times with water
- NOT Recommended is caffeine-containing drinks (ice tea, sodas, coffee)
- NOT Recommended is sugary or sweetened drinks (sodas, Gatorade, Powerade, Vitamin Water, Hi-C juices, Capri Sun, etc.)

## Tips & Tricks

- Let your toddler feed him/herself, switching back and forth between using silverware and using fingers
- Let your toddler learn about foods by touching, smelling, and tasting them. Even if they do not eat it right away.
- Offer new foods at the beginning of meals when toddler is most hungry
- Toddlers tend to go through "food jags" - picking a favorite food and wanting to eat it all the time. It's okay if the food is healthy and soon they will be on to new foods.

We gratefully acknowledge Elyn Satter's permission to use her work.

**Ask your health care provider if you have any problems or questions and always check with your provider before taking any medicine or changing your exercise plan.**

## Picky Eaters

### Is a picky eater born or made?

- Some toddlers are very sensitive to taste, texture and smell. Which means they can enjoy a food a lot or gag when eating it.
- Parents who are fussy about their own foods will often pass this on to their toddlers.
- Parents who pressure their children to eat can turn their toddlers away from certain foods

### What to do about it?

- Let your toddler pick from the foods available at meal time
- DO NOT limit the menu to only food your toddler will eat
- DO NOT withhold dessert or bribe to force him/her to eat
- Let your toddler eat as much or little at meal and snack time and remind them no food will be offered until the next meal or snack time
- Many times toddlers eat poorly because they drink their food rather than eat it.
- TRUST your toddler to eat. Toddlers have the built-in-ability to eat and will eventually come up with a balanced diet.



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