

Eat the Rainbow

March 2018 Look inside for...

- Pack Assorted Colors for Kids (P.A.C.K)
- P.A.C.K Tips for Parents
- Colorful Ideas for P.A.C.K Days
- Vitamin and Minerals
- Be an Active Family (English/Spanish)
- Indoor Physical Activity Ideas for Kids
- Monthly Recipe: Rainbow Rice



For more information on how to lead a healthier lifestyle, visit our website GetHealthyCT.org







Join the fun!

P.A.C.K. is all about packing more colorful fruits and veggies into children's diets. If you pack a snack or lunch for your child, pack a fruit or vegetable based on the color of the day!



TUESDAY is ... Pack WHÎTE/TAN/BROWN Day







A child-friendly
way to "pack purple"
is with 100% grape
juice made with
Concord grapes,
snack-sized raisins,
or blueberries (fresh,
dried, or frozen).



Bananas,
white peaches
or even
cauliflower with
dressing makes
a nice choice.







Baby carrots
are easy to
pack and so are
dried apricots
or orange
segments.



Go green
with celery
sticks, broccoli
florets, or a
crisp green
apple.



For children who buy lunch, be sure to encourage them to include a fruit and vegetable in their meal.

For more fun, have your child wear something to match the color of the day!

For more information visit: www.FruitAndVeggiesMoreMatters.org



P.A.C.K. Tips for Parents

Join the fun during P.A.C.K. Week and help your child get more colorful fruits and vegetables into his/her day. Here are some easy tips to packing great-tasting and nutritious fruits and veggies:

MONDAY is . . .



PURPLE/BLUE

fruits and veggies tend to be among the highest in antioxidant power.

- A child-friendly way to "pack purple" is with 100% grape juice made with purple Concord grapes.
- Since dried fruit counts, too, try packing a snacksized box of raisins for snack time.
- A plum is a tasty lunchbox addition or try including blueberries or blackberries in a reusable container.

TUESDAY is . . . Pack WHITE/TAN/BROWN Day



WHITE, TAN, & BROWN

fruits and veggies make up this color category.

- The most common white fruit is the banana . . . and they're easy to pack and so delicious.
- Your child might enjoy a white peach or a pear.
- Cauliflower florets with ranch dressing are a crunchy lunch addition.

WEDNESDAY is . . .



RED fruits and vegetables are a cheery addition to the lunchbox.

- You could send your child to school with a red apple on Pack Red Day.
- Consider

 packing a few
 cherries or
 strawberries
 for a tasty
 treat.
- Many kids love red pepper slices or tomato wedges, either with or without some ranch dressing.

THURSDAY is ...



YELLOW/
ORANGE fruits
and vegetables
will brighten up
everyone's day.

- The most common yellow/orange fruit is the orange.
- Baby carrots are super easy to pack and kids just love them.
- Other great yellow/ orange options are nectarines, peaches, or pineapple chunks.
- See if your child likes dried apricots. They're surprisingly delicious and super healthy.





GREEN fruits and vegetables are the most commonly eaten group of fruits and vegetables ... but there's always room for more!

- Green grapes

 (halves for younger children) and
 green apples are
 kid favorites, and
 they're easy to send
 to school on Pack
 Green Day.
- Celery sticks or green pepper slices are terrific crunchy snacks and can be packed along side ranch dressing for a fun dipping option.
- Other nutritious vegetable choices are snow peas, sugar snap peas, or broccoli florets.











Colorful Ideas for P.A.C.K. Days!

MONDAY is . . .

Pack PURPLE/BLUE Day



☆ black currents

& blackberries

& blueberries

🖈 dried plums & elderberries

A plums

FRUITS

A purple figs

☆ purple grapes

☆ raisins

VEGGIES

☆ black beans

☆ black olives

☆ black salsify

🖈 eggplant

🖈 purple asparagus 🖈 purple Belgian endive

☆ purple cabbage

☆ purple carrots

🖈 purple pepper

☆ purple potatoes

TUESDAY is . . .

Pack WHITE / TAN / BROWN Day



🖈 bananas

& dates

white nectarines white peaches

☆ white pears

* artichokes

& cauliflower

☆ chick peas

☆ garlic

☆ ginger

☆ jicama ☆ kohlrabi mushrooms

onions

🏠 parsnips

☆ shallots 🏠 turnips

white corn

☆ white potatoes

WEDNESDAY is.

Pack RED Day



A blood oranges

& cherries

& cranberries

☆ grapefruit

red apples

☆ red grapes

red pears ☆ pomegranates

* raspberries

* strawberries

* watermelon

☆ beets

* kidney beans

* radicchio

& radishes

ared onions

red peppers

☆ red potatoes

* rhubarb

☆ tomatoes

THURSDAY is.

Pack YELLOW / ORANGE Day



☆ cantaloupe

☆ cape gooseberries

🖈 golden kiwifruit

☆ grapefruit

🖈 lemons

☆ mangoes

🖈 nectarines 🖈 oranges

☆ apricots

🖈 papayas ☆ peaches

☆ persimmons

pineapples

☆ tangerines

☆ yellow apples

yellow figs

🖈 yellow watermelon

☆ butternut squash ☆ carrots

pumpkin

☆ rutabagas

🖈 sweet corn

☆ sweet potatoes

x yellow beets

☆ yellow peppers

☆ yellow potatoes 🖈 yellow summer

squash ☆ yellow tomatoes

☆ yellow winter

squash

FRIDAY is . .

Pack GREEN Day



☆ avocado

honeydew

🖈 green apple ☆ green grapes

kiwifruit ☆ limes

☆ artichokes

🖈 arugula

🖈 asparagus

☆ broccoflower & broccoli

🖈 green beans the broccoli rabe

🖈 chayote squash 🗳 leafy greens

☆ Brussels sprouts ☆ green onions celery

☆ green cabbage 🖈 green pepper

☆ Chinese

🖈 endive

cabbage

☆ cucumbers

☆ leeks

☆ lettuce 🖈 okra

☆ peas

🖈 zucchini

☆ snow peas ☆ spinach

☆ watercress



VITAMIN/MINERAL

. . . and its FUNCTION:

VITAMIN A (Beta Carotene)

Gives orange fruits and veggies their brillant color and is a compound the body turns into vitamin A to help support healthy vision.

GREAT SOURCES:

- · Apricots (4 fresh whole)
- Arugula (4 cups)
- Broccoli (1 medium stalk)
- Cantaloupe (½ cup)
- Mango (½ mango)
- Carrots (7" x 11/4")
- Collard greens (2 cups)
- Grapefruit (½ medium)
- Spinach (1½ cups shredded)
- Sweet potato (1 medium)
- Tomato (1 medium)
- Watermelon (2 cups or 1/10 of medium melon)

GOOD SOURCES:

- Endive (¾ cup)
- Nectarine (1 medium)
- Peach (1 medium)
- Prunes (5 dried)
- Tangerine (1 medium)
- Okra (seven 3-inch pods or 34 cup)
- Winter squash (½ cup)

🖈 VITAMIN C

Acts as an antioxidant, helps support healthy wound healing and can promote a healthy immune system.

- 100% grape juice
- Arugula (4 cups) • Asparagus (5 spears)
- Banana (1 medium)
- Bell pepper (1 medium)
- Blackberries (1 cup)
- Blueberries (1 cup) · Broccoli (1 medium
- stalk)
- Cantaloupe (½ cup)
- Cauliflower (1/6
- Cherries (1 cup fresh)
- Collard greens (2 cups) Plums (2 medium)
- Grapefruit (½ medium) Pomegranate (1 • Green beans (¾ cup)

- Green cabbage (1/12 medium head or 1 cup) • Radish (7 radishes)
 - Kiwifruit (2 medium)
 - Leek (1 leek or 1 cup)
 - Lime (1 medium) • Mango (½ mango)
 - Okra (seven 3-inch)
 - pods or 34 cup)
 - Orange (1 medium)
 - Papaya (½ medium fruit) Sweet potato (1
 - Peach (1 medium)
- medium head or 1 cup) Pineapple (2 fresh slices)
 - medium)

- Potato (1 medium)
- Raspberries (1 cup)
- Spinach (1½ cups
- shredded) Strawberries (8
- medium or 1 cup)
- Summer squash (1/2 medium squash)
- medium)
- Tangerine (1 medium)
- Tomato (1 medium)
- Watermelon (2 cups or 1/10 of medium melon Winter squash (½ cup)
- Avocado (½ cup)

Apple (large)

• Carrots (7" x 1 1/4")

Artichoke (1 edible portion)

- Cranberries (½ cup)
- Grapes (½ cup)
- Lima beans (½ cup)
- Nectarine (1 medium)
- Onion (1 medium)
- Pear (1 medium)
- Peas (½ cup)

🖈 VITAMIN E

Works as an antioxidant to support overall health.

- Broccoli (1 medium stalk)

- Blueberries (1 cup)
- Collard greens (2 cups)
- Kiwifruit (2 medium)
- Mango (½ mango)
- Nectarine (1 medium)
- Olives (½ cup)
- Papaya (½ medium fruit)
- Peach (1 medium)
- Spinach (1½ cups shredded)

☆ IRON

Helps support healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body.

- Black beans (½ cup)
- Chick peas (½ cup)
- Great Northern beans (½ cup)
- Kidney beans (½ cup)
- Leek (1 leek or 1 cup)
 - Lima beans (½ cup)
 - Olives (½ cup)
 - Spinach (1½ cups shredded)
- Artichoke (1 edible portion)
- Apricots (4 fresh whole)
- Arugula (4 cups)
- Beets (1 medium beet or 34 cup)
- Blackberries (1 cup)
- Broccoli (1 medium stalk)
- Dates (½ cup fresh) • Figs (2 dried)
- Peas (½ cup)
- Potato (1 medium)
- Prunes (5 dried) • Raisins (1/4 cup)

☆ FIBER

Helps support a healthy digestive system and keeps your stomach feeling fuller for longer which can aid in supporting weight management. Diets rich in certain forms of fiber may also help maintain healthy blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

- Apple (large)
- Blackberries (1 cup) • Green soy beans (½ cup)
- Lima beans (½ cup)
- Pears (1 medium)
- Raspberries (1 cup)
- Spinach (1½ cups shredded)
- · Artichoke (1 edible portion)
- Banana (1 medium) • Blueberries (1 cup)
- Broccoli (1 medium stalk)
- Chick peas (½ cup)
- Dates (½ cup fresh)
- Figs (2 dried)
- Green beans (¾ cup)
 - Kiwifruit (2 medium)
 - Onion (1 medium)
 - Orange (1 medium)
 - Prunes (5 dried) Sweet potato (1 medium)

🖈 CALCIUM

Supports strong bones and healthy teeth, and aids in muscle contractions that are essential for body movement.

- Calcium fortified juice (½ cup) Turnip greens (1 cup cooked)
- Green soybeans (½ cup)

☆ FOLATE Helps promote the formation of healthy cells, including red blood cells.

- Arugula (4 cups)
- Asparagus (5 spears)
- Beets (1 medium beet or 34 cup)
- Chick peas (½ cup)

- Broccoli (1 medium stalk)

- Collard greens (2 cups)
- Kidney beans (½ cup) • Lima beans (½ cup)
- Okra (7 3-inch pods or ¾ cup)
- Strawberries (8 medium or 1 cup)
- Artichoke (1 edible portion)
- Avocado (½ cup) • Beets (1 medium beet)
- Blackberries (1 cup fresh) • Cantaloupe (½ cup) • Cauliflower (1/6 medium head
- Green cabbage (1/12 medium head or 1 cup)
- Kiwifruit (2 medium) • Leaf lettuce (1½ cups

shredded)

- Leek (1 leek or 1 cup) Papaya (½ medium fruit)
- Raspberries (1 cup)

- Endive (¾ cup)
- Great Northern beans (½ cup)
- Peas (½ cup)
- Spinach (1½ cups shredded)
- or 1 cup)

10 tips

Nutrition Education Series

be an active family

10 tips for becoming more active as a family



Physical activity is important for children and adults of all ages. Being active as a family can benefit everyone. Adults need 2½ hours a week of physical activity, and children need 60 minutes a day. Follow these tips to add more activity to your family's busy schedule.

set specific activity times Determine time slots throughout the week when the whole family is available. Devote a few of these times to physical activity. Try doing something active after dinner or begin the weekend with a Saturday morning walk.



plan for all weather conditions Choose some activities that do not depend on the weather conditions. Try mall walking, indoor swimming, or active video games. Enjoy outdoor activities as a bonus whenever the weather is nice.

plan ahead and track your progress Write your activity plans on a family calendar. Let

the kids help in planning the activities. Allow them to check it off after completing each activity.

include work around the house Involve the kids in yard work and other active chores around the house. Have them help you with raking, weeding, planting, or vacuuming.



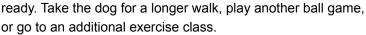
use what is available Plan activities that require little or no equipment or facilities. Examples include walking, jogging, jumping rope, playing tag, and dancing. Find out what programs your community recreation center offers for free or minimal charge.

build new skills Enroll the kids in classes they might enjoy such as gymnastics, dance, or tennis. Help them practice. This will keep things fun and interesting, and introduce new skills!

Set a rule that no one can spend longer than 2 hours per day playing video games, watching TV, and using the computer (except for school work). Instead of a TV show, play an active family game, dance to favorite music, or go for a walk.

start small Begin by introducing one new family activity and add more when you feel everyone is

turn off the TV



include other families Invite others to join your family activities. This is a great way for you and your kids to spend time with friends while being physically active. Plan parties with active games



such as bowling or an obstacle course, sign up for family programs at the YMCA, or join a recreational club.

treat the family with fun physical activity When it is time to celebrate as a family, do something active as a reward. Plan a trip to the zoo, park, or lake to treat the family.

10 consejos Serie de educación en nutrición

que su familia se mantenga activa



10 consejos para que su familia sea más activa

La actividad física es importante en niños y adultos de todas las edades. Mantener la familia activa puede beneficiar a todos. Los adultos necesitan 2½ horas de actividad física a la semana y los niños necesitan 60 minutos por día. Siga estos consejos para incrementar la actividad física de su familia.

planee actividaes específicas
Determine las horas en las que toda
la familia esta disponible. Dedique
algunas de éstas horas para la actividad
física. Trate de hacer alguna actividad
después de la cena o empieza el fin de
semana con una caminata en la mañana
del Sábado.



planee con anticipación y tome nota de sus logros
Escriba sus planes en el calendario familiar. Deje

que ellos marquen las actividades que ya realizaron.

Incluya el trabajo en la casa Deje que los niños participen en el trabajo del jardín y otras tareas de la casa. Ellos pueden ayudar rastrillando, deshierbando, plantando o aspirando.



use lo que esta disponible
Planee actividades que no requieren herramientas
o espacios especiales. Ejemplos incluyen: caminar,
trotar, saltar soga, jugar a las escondidas y bailar. Busque
programas gratis o de bajo costo en los centros recreativos
de su comunidad.

desarrolle nuevas habilidades
Suscriba a los niños en clases que los entretengan
como: gimnasia, danza o tenis y ayúdelos a practicar.
Esto ayudará a mantener las actividades divertidas,
interesantes y desarrollarán nuevas habilidades.

planee para todas las condiciones del tiempo
Escoga algunas actividades que no dependan de las
condiciones del tiempo. Pruebe caminando en el centro
comercial, natación en piscina cubierta o juegos activos de
video. Disfrute actividades adicionales afuera cuando el
tiempo lo permita.

apague la televisión
Establezca una regla de tal manera que nadie pueda
ver TV, juegos de video o usar la computadora por más
de 2 horas por día (excepto por las tareas de la escuela). En
vez de un programa de televisión participe en un juego familiar
activo, baile su música favorita o salga a caminar.

empiece poco a poco Empiece introduciendo una nueva actividad familiar y adicione más cuando vea que todos



esten listos. Lleve al perro a largas caminatas, juegue con la pelota o vaya a clases de educación física.

incluya otras familias Invite a otras familias a tus actividades. Esta es una manera para que sus niños compartan el tiempo con

amigos mientras hacen actividad física. Planee fiestas con juegos activos como boliche, carrera de obstáculos, suscríbase en los programas familiares de YMCA o en un club recreacional.



deleite a su familia con actividad divertida
Cuando sea tiempo de una celebración familiar, planee algo activo como premio. Planee un paseo al zoológico, al parque o al lago, para deleite de todos.





Indoor Physical Activity Ideas for Kids!

Activity helps children stay healthy and happy. These suggestions are useful during extended rain and snow periods when outdoor play is not possible. Television watching and use of computer or video games should be limited to 2 hours or less per day.

- Use music for stepping, hopping, jumping in place.
- Have kids make up dances or share the latest popular or line dances.
- Play "keep the balloon up". Use one balloon per child or one balloon per small group. The group may add additional balloons as they gain control and awareness.
- Practice progressive relaxation, tensing each body segment and then relaxing in turn (head, neck, shoulders, right arm, right hand, left arm, left hand, etc.).
- Sitting exercise [sittercize]: do a variety of arm, leg, foot, and trunk exercises while remaining seated. [Use music]
- Play "fitness with the leader." This is "follow the leader," using exercises.
- Measure heart rates after various movements [hop, walk, jump, skip, etc.].
- Make up "hand jive" routines, share and teach to others.
- Try juggling, top spinning, or yo-yo contests.
- Sport mimics: act out sport movements such as batting, kicking, dribbling, throwing/catching, dunking, swimming various strokes, and volleyball passing/serving. Everyone is skillful without the equipment!!
- Collect milk jugs to fill with varied amounts of water to use as weights. "A pint's a pound the world around!"
- Make paper airplanes and see how far they can fly-but be sure they don't point them at other people!

Source: The National Association for Sport & Physical Fitness at www.aahperd.org http://www.aahperd.org

More Indoor Activity Ideas

- Send your kids (or join them!) on a SCAVENGER HUNT!
- Build a fort
- Dance There's a number of ways to get kids shaking with music; karaoke, dance videos or the freeze game in which kids dance until the music stops.
- Play with a pet
- Hide and Go Seek
- Try a kids workout video!
- Play Charades
- Dress up
- Hula hoop not only can you spin the hula hoop around your body but you can also relay race pushing the hula hoop. The race doesn't have to span any longer than the length of a room.
- Kids Gym many gyms have kid zones that children can go to while their parent gets their own rainy day physical activity.
- Traditional Games Games like Ring around the Rosie, Duck Duck Goose, and the Hokey Pokey can all be done indoors if there's more than one child playing.
- Foam Ball Games 'nerf'-like foam balls make perfect indoor sports equipment.
 Toss around a foam ball, play catch bouncing it of a wall or play basketball with a mini hoop
- Jump Rope
- Introduce activity breaks during commercial breaks any time your child watches TV so they don't remain completely sedentary

Online Resources for Indoor Activity

Inspiration and Information for Physical Activity http://www.bam.gov/sub physicalactivity/index.html

Gear Up: Need a helmet? Need a ball? If you're not sure what gear you need in order to do a certain physical activity, just select it from the pulldown list and we'll let you know! http://www.bam.gov/sub yoursafety/yoursafety gearup.html

Physical Activity Online Tracking http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/tnrockyrun/moveit.htm

From the CDC about getting physical activity: http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/getactive/children.html

Kids Health is a great resource for parents – and has some really fun stuff for kids too! www.KidsHealth.org

Rainbow Rice

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheshire, Connecticut

Our Story

Highland Elementary School is a dynamic and exciting place to work or to go to school. The recipe challenge team assembled and worked hard to create a recipe that was an instant smash hit. Rainbow Rice received great reviews during taste tests at the school.

Rainbow Rice is exactly that – a colorful rainbow of healthy vegetables, wholesome grains, and protein.
Rainbow rice is certainly a wonderful way to introduce children to a variety of grains that they are sure to enjoy: brown rice, wild rice, barley, quinoa, and bulgur wheat. The team believes that once you have tasted "Rainbow Rice", you will feel like you've gone over the rainbow! Packed with whole grains and colorful vegetables, this recipe is a sure winner for those wanting a healthy dish without sacrificing taste.

School Team Members

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONAL: Susan Zentek **CHEF:** Patricia D'Alessio (Personal Chef, LLC)

community members: Rebecca Frost (Teacher) and

Katie Guerette (Teacher)

STUDENTS: Luke E., Randi C., Shane C., Maya G., and Jami P.



Rainbow Rice

Ingredients

½ cup Brown rice, long-grain, regular, dry

3 Tbsp Brown and wild rice blend, dry

6 Tbsp Barley, quick pearl, dry

2 tsp Low-sodium chicken base

2 Tbsp Quinoa, dry

3 Tbsp Bulgur wheat, dry

1 cup Fresh carrots, peeled, diced

1 cup Fresh red bell peppers, seeded, diced

1 tsp Extra virgin olive oil

¼ tsp Kosher salt

3 ½ cups Cooked diced chicken, ½" pieces (12 oz)

1½ cups Fresh baby spinach, chopped

Preparation Time: 15 minutes Cooking Time: 1 hour Makes six 1-cup servings

Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 °F.
- **2.** In a medium pot, combine brown rice, wild rice blend, barley, and 1 tsp chicken base with 1 ¼ cups water.
- **3.** Rinse quinoa in a fine mesh strainer until water runs clear, not cloudy. In a small pot, combine quinoa and bulgur wheat with ³/₄ cup water and remaining 1 tsp chicken base.
- **4.** Bring both uncovered pots to a rolling boil. Stir occasionally. Turn heat down and simmer over low heat until water is absorbed, about 30 minutes. Cover and cook an additional 10 minutes over low heat. Fluff with a fork.
- **5.** In a large mixing bowl, combine carrots and red peppers. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Toss lightly. Pour into a large nonstick baking pan. Roast at 350 °F for 20 minutes or until tender.
- **6.** Combine cooked grains, chicken, and spinach with roasted vegetables. Mix well. Return to oven and bake for 15 minutes to an internal temperature of 165 °F or higher for at least 15 seconds (use a food thermometer to check the internal temperature). Serve hot.

1 cup provides 2 oz equivalent meat, 1/2 cup red/orange vegetable, 1/2 cup other vegetable, and 1 oz equivalent grains.