



Table: Dietary Recommendations for Children

Daily Estimated Calories and Recommended Servings for Grains, Fruits, Vegetables, and Milk/Dairy by Age and Gender

	1 Year	2–3 Years	4–8 Years	9–13 Years	14–18 Years
Calories†	900 kcal	1000 kcal			
Female			1200 kcal	1600 kcal	1800 kcal
Male			1400 kcal	1800 kcal	2200 kcal
Fat	30–40% kcal	30–35% kcal	25–35% kcal	25–35% kcal	25–35% kcal
Milk/Dairy‡	2 cups¶	2 cups	2 cups	3 cups	3 cups
Lean Meat/Beans	1.5 oz	2 oz		5 oz	
Female			3 oz		5 oz
Male			4 oz		6 oz
Fruits§	1 cup	1 cup	1.5 cups	1.5 cups	
Female					1.5 cups
Male					2 cups
Vegetables§	3/4 cup	1 cup			
Female			1 cup	2 cups	2.5 cups
Male			1.5 cup	2.5 cups	3 cups
Grains_	2 oz	3 oz			
Female			4 oz	5 oz	6 oz
Male			5 oz	6 oz	7 oz

*Calorie estimates are based on a sedentary lifestyle. Increased physical activity will require additional calories: by 0–200 kcal/d if moderately physically active; and by 200–400 kcal/d if very physically active.

†For youth 2 years and older; adopted from Table 2, Table 3, and Appendix A-2 of the *Dietary Guidelines for*

Americans (2005)¹⁴; <http://www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines>. Nutrient and energy contributions from each group are calculated according to the nutrient-dense forms of food in each group (eg, lean meats and fat-free milk).

‡Milk listed is fat-free (except for children under the age of 2 years). If 1%, 2%, or whole-fat milk is substituted, this will utilize, for each cup, 19, 39, or 63 kcal of discretionary calories and add 2.6, 5.1, or 9.0 g of total fat, of

which 1.3, 2.6, or 4.6 g are saturated fat.

§Serving sizes are 1/4 cup for 1 year of age, 1/3 cup for 2 to 3 years of age, and 1/2 cup for 4 years of age.

A variety of vegetables should be selected from each subgroup over the week.

_Half of all grains should be whole grains.

¶For 1-year-old children, calculations are based on 2% fat milk. If 2 cups of whole milk are substituted, 48 kcal of discretionary calories will be utilized. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that low-fat/reduced fat milk not be started before 2 years of age.

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