

YOUTH

HEALTH BULLETIN



MARCH 2025

Download this and past issues of the Adult, Youth, Parent, and Family Caregiver Health Bulletins: http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/ content/health-bulletins

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

USE GOOD WORDS FOR FOOD



The way we talk about food is important for our health. What we say about food can make us feel good or bad about eating it. If we use kind and good words about food, it can help us build a healthy relationship with what we eat. A healthy relationship with food means we can enjoy eating without feeling guilty or worried. It also helps us understand that food is something that helps our bodies stay strong and healthy.

The words we use when we talk about food can change how we feel about eating. If we

Continued on the next page



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.





By using kind and positive words, we can understand that food helps us grow strong and stay healthy.

Continued from the previous page

say things like, "that food is unhealthy," or "you shouldn't eat that," it can make food feel like the enemy. We might start to think that eating some foods is wrong or bad. But food is not the problem. When we use words like, "this food gives me energy," or "this helps my body stay strong," we start to see food as something that helps us feel good.

It is important to remember that no food is really "bad." It's all about balance. Sweet treats like cookies or candy can be good for us because they bring us joy when we eat them. But we also need foods like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to keep us feeling good. If we only eat one kind of food all the time, like only candy or only vegetables, our bodies won't be as healthy. It's about having all types of food in different amounts.

When we say foods are "good" or "bad," it can make us feel like we're doing something wrong





when we eat the "bad" food. Instead of using these words, we can talk about food in a more helpful way.

It's also helpful to slow down and think about how food tastes. Instead of rushing through meals, we can take time to enjoy how the food tastes, how it feels, the colors of the food, and how it makes us feel after we eat it.

The words we use when thinking and talking about food can help us feel good about eating it. By using kind and positive words, we can understand that food helps us grow strong and stay healthy. Whether it's a treat or a healthy meal, food is something to enjoy.

REFERENCES:

- Satter, E. (n.d.). Are you feeling bad about your eating? Ellyn Satter Institute. https://www.ellynsatterinstitute.org/family-meals-focus/96-are-you-ready-to-stop-feeling-bad-about-your-eating/
- Ellyn Satter Institute. (n.d.). The joy of eating: Being a competent eater. Ellyn Satter Institute https://www.ellynsatterinstitute.org/how-to-eat/the-joy-of-eating-being-a-competent-eater

YOUTH
HEALTH BULLETIN

Written by:

Anna Cason, RDN

Edited by: Alyssa Simms

Designed by: Rusty Manseau

Cartoon illustrations by:

Chris Ware (© University of Kentucky School of Human

of Kentucky School of Huma Environmental Sciences)