



# Bright Futures Parent Handout

## 5 and 6 Year Visits

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

ORAL HEALTH

### Healthy Teeth

- Help your child brush his 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.
- Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.

MENTAL HEALTH

### Your Child and Family

- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Have family routines.
- Hug and praise your child.
- Teach your child what is right and what is wrong.
- Help your child to do things for herself.
- Children learn better from discipline than they do from punishment.
- Help your child deal with anger.
  - Teach your child to walk away when angry or go somewhere else to play.

SCHOOL READINESS

### Ready for School

- Take your child to see the school and meet the teacher.
- Read books with your child about starting school.
- Talk to your child about school.
- Make sure your child is in a safe place after school with an adult.
- Talk with your child every day about things he liked, any worries, and if anyone is being mean to him.
- Talk to us about your concerns.

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

### Staying Healthy

- Eat breakfast.
- Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods, and encourage 3 servings each day.
- Limit candy, soft drinks, and high-fat foods.
- Offer 5 servings of vegetables and fruits at meals and for snacks every day.
- Limit TV time to 2 hours a day.
- Do not have a TV in your child's bedroom.
- Make sure your child is active for 1 hour or more daily.

SAFETY

### Safety

- Your child should always ride in the back seat and use a car safety seat or booster seat.
- Teach your child to swim.
- Watch your child around water.
- Use sunscreen when outside.
- Provide a good-fitting helmet and safety gear for biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
- Have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your house and a fire escape plan.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in a hallway near every sleeping area.
- Never have a gun in the home. If you must have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
- Ask if there are guns in homes where your child plays. If so, make sure they are stored safely.
- Teach your child how to cross the street safely. Children are not ready to cross the street alone until age 10 or older.
- Teach your child about bus safety.
- Teach your child about how to be safe with other adults.
  - No one should ask for a secret to be kept from parents.
  - No one should ask to see private parts.
  - No adult should ask for help with his private parts.

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:  
1-866-SEATCHECK; [seatcheck.org](http://seatcheck.org)



American Academy  
of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Original document included as part of Bright Futures Tool and Resource Kit. Copyright © 2010 American Academy of Pediatrics. All Rights Reserved. The American Academy of Pediatrics does not review or endorse any modifications made to this document and in no event shall the AAP be liable for any such changes.