

What am I really drinking? ... A question for kids

We all have our favorite drinks we get when we get thirsty. But, did you know that just like eating healthy food, we need to drink healthy drinks? Look at this chart with your parent and check whether each drink is healthy, which are not, and which are okay to drink only sometimes. Post the chart on the refrigerator as a reminder and to encourage your whole family to switch to healthy drinks with you!

	What's in it?	How it helps my body	Be Careful!!	Now What?	Healthy?
Regular Soda	A lot of calories* but no nutrients**.	Even though soda may taste good, it does not give any of the nutrients that your body needs.	Soda provides more sugar than your body needs, which can cause not only weight gain, but also tooth decay and cavities.*** Yikes!	The less soda you drink the better; try drinking water or fat-free (skim), 1 percent fat, or low-fat milk instead.	Yes No <i>Sometimes</i>
Diet Soda	Diet soda doesn't have any calories, but it doesn't have any nutrients either.	Diet soda does not provide any of the nutrients your body needs.	Like regular soda, diet soda can lead to tooth decay and cavities too.	Diet soda is okay to drink occasionally, but be sure to drink enough water and fat-free (skim) milk to make sure you are getting all your nutrients.	Yes No <i>Sometimes</i>
Fat-Free Milk (Skim Milk)	Many good nutrients your body needs, like calcium and protein. These help you build strong bones and muscles.	Calcium helps to keep your bones and teeth strong and protein helps you build strong muscles	Not all milk is the same. Some milk contains a lot of extra fat (like in whole milk and 2% fat milk) that your body doesn't need. Make sure to grab ones that say fat-free (skim) or 1%.	To get enough calcium and protein, you will want to drink a few glasses of low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim) milk every day. Try having a glass at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, or for a snack.	Yes No <i>Sometimes</i>
Water	Just water! There are no calories in water, but it is something that your body needs plenty of.	Water helps your body do its jobs like keeping your body temperature cool and helping you digest food. Water also helps you to feel more energetic and will help your skin look better.		It is important to drink water every day. Our bodies are mostly made of water; it is in all of our cells, tissues, muscles, everywhere! So be sure to get your fill to keep your body from getting thirsty.	Yes No <i>Sometimes</i>

For more information on heart-healthy eating, visit www.Heart.org/Nutrition or contact the American Heart Association at inquiries@heart.org or (800) 242-8721.

	What's in it?	How it helps my body	Be Careful!!	Now What?	Healthy?
Sugary Drinks	A lot more sugar than your body needs.	Some sugary drinks (like sweetened juice, fruit drink, fruit punch) may have some of the nutrients you need, like vitamins and minerals, but should not take the place of 100% juice or water.		The less you have of these sugary drinks, the better. Look for drinks that have fewer calories and get nutrients from drinks like fat-free (skim) milk.	Yes No Sometimes
Chocolate Milk	Many good nutrients your body need, like calcium and protein. The chocolate and other flavors of milk are okay, but they have some extra calories from sugar, that regular milk doesn't have.	Calcium helps to keep your bones and teeth strong and protein helps you build strong muscles.	Make sure to get low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim) milk so that you aren't drinking too much fat!	To get enough calcium and protein, you will want to drink a few glasses of low-fat (1%) or fat-free(skim) milk every day. Try saving chocolate and other flavored milks for occasional treats or desserts and drink plain milk most of the time.	Yes No Sometimes

***What is a calorie?** A calorie is a way to measure how much energy is in food. We can eat too many calories as well as not enough. Depending on your age, size, and gender, you will need to eat a certain amount each day.

****What is a nutrient?** Nutrients are substances found in food that provide our bodies with important things to work and grow. Some nutrients are minerals, some are chemicals, and some are vitamins. Examples of nutrients are protein, calcium, Vitamin C, and fiber. By eating foods that have a lot of nutrients our bodies will feel and work better.

*****What is tooth decay and what are cavities?** All of our teeth have hard coatings called enamel, that help to protect our teeth and keep them strong. Certain foods, like sugar and soda, can break down the enamel, making our teeth weak. When our teeth are weak things like cavities can form. Cavities are holes in the tooth where the enamel has gotten very weak.