

PARENT HEALTH BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2024

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC SPORTS HELP KIDS BE ACTIVE



The first week of October is Youth Sports Week in the United States, a time to celebrate the many benefits of playing sports! Kids and teens need to be active to be healthy, and sports are a natural outlet for kids to be active and have fun. There are many physical benefits of playing sports. Practices and games can help kids achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day, as well as provide activities and drills that can increase hand-eye coordination, flexibility, and strength. Kids (and adults, too!) need to do a wide variety of exercises. Everyone needs aerobic activities that make their hearts beat faster, muscle-strengthening activities, and bone-strengthening activities every week. Skills and drills that include jumping, throwing, running, kicking, and the like are great for increasing overall physical health.

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Playing sports has benefits beyond just being good exercise. Through sports, kids learn other valuable life skills, such as how to work as a team, how to be a leader among their peers, strong work ethic, and to how to focus. It is important to learn how to win gracefully, how to be a good sport when they do not win, how to encourage their teammates, and to persevere when learning new skills. Sports can also give kids a bigger friend group and positive mentors from coaches and other parents.

Help your child find their way to play! Your child's personality and lifestyle factors will help determine which sport, and at what level of competition they will want to play. There are so many team and individual sports out there! Encourage your child to get involved in a sport they already love or try something new. If they feel intimidated, find a friend who wants to get involved, too. Many parks and recreation departments offer low-cost and local options to get kids involved. Schools and other community organizations may also have teams that your child could join.

Sports can help parents to be active, too! You can spend time with your child and get in minutes

of movement by practicing along with your child at home. Are there drills that your child can teach you or you can do with them to help them improve? Or strength- or stamina-building exercises that you could both do together? Many coaches and leagues are happy to provide information on how you and your child can continue to build their skills (and yours!) outside of practice times.

As a parent or caregiver, it is important to encourage and cheer for your child as they learn and grow through sports. It is equally important to demonstrate good sportsmanship and a positive attitude, regardless of the outcome of a competition. Most of all, remember that the purpose of sports for kids is to be active and have fun!

REFERENCE:

<https://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/move-your-way-community-resources/campaign-materials/materials-parents>

ADULT
HEALTH BULLETIN

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