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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The health and wellbeing of our NZ children is precious – sadly, some statistics about our children’s dental and general health don’t make happy reading.

Look at the Health Statistics opposite:
The school and community environment in which children play, learn, and grow up has a huge influence over their lifestyle.

If we all create a healthy environment and all role model healthy eating and drinking, it will be much easier for children and their parents / whānau to make healthy choices.

However it’s common to hear, “It’s a treat; they don’t get it all the time” to justify the candy floss and hot chips sold at community events. The facts below illustrate that these foods are being eaten at least weekly by almost half of all children (5-14 years):

- 48% have sweets
- 83% have crisps
- 45% have soft drinks
- 45% have sausages


Health Status

- 37% of children (59% Māori, 68% Pasifika) aged 5 in the Canterbury DHB region have dental caries. They have an average of 1.7 (3.0 for Māori, 3.8 for Pasifika) decayed, missing or filled teeth.

- 11% of children aged 2-14 years are obese, with a further 22% overweight.

- Children living in the most deprived areas are five times more likely to be obese compared with children living in the least deprived areas.


These foods, high in fat, sugar, and / or salt are not healthy and provide very little benefit to children. In fact they contribute to many diseases. With the rates of obesity, poor oral health and other related diseases high and on the rise in New Zealand we need to re-look at what we are feeding our children.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education have both recommended schools have a water and milk-only policy.

Remember when you are planning your fundraiser, school dance or event, that selling fizzy drinks isn’t a good idea. Have a look through the next few pages for lots of alternative ideas – the options are limitless.
Avoid calling unhealthy foods treats
This makes these foods (which are often less healthy) seem more desirable than others.

Rewards
Avoid using food as a reward. Ideas for non-food rewards include: balloons, stamps, stickers, bubble blowing kit for juniors, 15 minutes extra play time with a friend, choice of game for class to play, and earn house points. (And check out ‘Ideas’ on page 9).

Role model
Don’t forget that your school / organisation is a role model for your community. Families are influenced by what you do, so show them how great healthy food and drinks can be.

Offer a variety of food choices
Just make sure they are all healthy. It can be difficult for a healthy food stall to compete if surrounded by unhealthy options.

Be consistent
There is little point promoting an event as healthy or teaching children about nutrition at school if you then provide them with unhealthy options. This causes confusion and conflicting messages. To support children and their families to make healthy changes, be consistent. Consider sponsorship carefully; do you really want a junk food company to sponsor your fun run?

Have a food policy
This ensures everyone is following the same guidelines and reduces any confusion. See the following page for an example.
SAMPLE EVENT FOOD POLICY

OUR COMMITMENT

We will provide food that is based around the four main food groups:

- Vegetables and fruit
- Wholegrain breads and cereals
- Reduced-fat milk and milk products
- Lean meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts and seeds, or alternatives

We will ensure that:

- Free water, unflavoured reduced-fat milk (tea and coffee) are the only beverages on offer
- Portion sizes are limited
- Minimal salt is used
- Culturally appropriate foods are available

Foods / drinks high in fat, sugar, and / or salt will not be used as giveaways / prizes (e.g. lollipops, chocolates).

Foods high in fat, sugar and / or salt will not be available, such as:

- Deep fried foods e.g. hot dogs, chips, battered food
- Confectionery e.g. lollies
- Biscuits

Having a food policy is important for our events to maintain consistency and sustainability into the future. The aim of this policy is to provide concrete strategies that will ensure our event provides a supportive environment that promotes healthy eating habits, supports family / whānau values, and protects the future health of our community.
SAMPLE SCHOOL FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

OUR COMMITMENT

We will deliver clear and consistent messages about nutrition by:

Ensuring that any food provided by / through school (e.g. canteen, on-line lunch providers, school events, school camp menus, fundraisers, school meetings) follows National Food and Nutrition Guidelines.

- Foods provided will be based around the four main food groups: vegetables and fruit; wholegrain breads and cereals; reduced-fat milk and milk products; lean meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, nuts and seeds, or alternatives
- Free water, unflavoured reduced-fat milk, tea and coffee are the only beverages on offer
- Foods high in fat, sugar and / or salt are not available, such as:
  - Deep fried foods e.g. hot dogs, chips, battered food
  - Confectionery e.g. lollies

We will ensure our students, parents and school community receive clear, consistent messages about the importance of healthy choices by:

- Incorporating nutrition education across the curriculum including the health programme
- Communicating our nutrition messages to the wider school community in various ways including the newsletter, school website, Facebook page and enrollment packs
- Acknowledging the cultural diversity of our community with our nutrition messages
- Actively promoting physical activity as the partner of good nutrition

We will create an enabling environment by:

- Actively discouraging sugary drinks being brought to school by students
- Not associating our school with programmes or sponsors that promote foods / drinks high in fat, sugar, and / or salt
- Ensuring staff members are committed to modeling healthy food and drink choices

Based on the Ministry water-only policy: http://my.creativemail.co.nz/t/r-l-ejyjly-tluyduikj-h/
In March 2016, the Phillipstown Hub held a community festival. In previous years the food options had involved foods such as candy floss and sausages. During planning for the 2016 event, the idea of having a focus on healthy eating was discussed. At the initial meeting, there was a bit of resistance as most people seemed to think this was something that was being forced on them and they were worried about cost.

After further discussions it was decided that cost effective and ‘yummy’ ideas were to be looked into. A compromise was decided in the end: fresh corn, water melon, and pineapple along with the donated sausages and pizza from Romano’s.

The corn, melon, and pineapple were positioned as the first thing that people saw when they came into the food area. The corn, melon and pineapple turned out to be very popular. People were returning time and again to the fruit stall, and it was noticed that the line for the sausages was quite short, whereas previously the sausages had been the food item that people headed for first. This time it seemed that the corn and fruit were the main items.

Quotes from the day
“I love watermelon”, “Can I take a couple of pieces? This pineapple is delicious”, “So lovely to have corn”, “There you go kids, these are the treats”...

No one made any negative comments and people kept commenting on how great it was that the corn and fruit were so popular. “It was seen as a real success having the fresh food. I think people will be increasingly open to the idea now that they have seen people are grateful for yummy fresh food that they may not usually purchase for themselves.”

Lauren Luketina, Phillipstown Hub Coordinator
(March 2016)
FOOD FOR EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

**Hangi / Umu** – make sure there are lots of vegetables, and cut the fat and skin off meat.

**Boil up** – take off visible fat and add lots of veggies.

**Rewana bread** – use low fat spread.

**Plain popcorn** – don’t add salt, butter or sugar.

**Fruit salad cups or kebabs** – in the summer try frozen fruit kebabs.

**Watermelon and pineapple wedges** – looks flashy, tastes great, and super cheap.

**Filled rolls** – set up a ‘subway’ line, use wholegrain rolls and lots of salad ingredients.

**Wholegrain toasted sandwiches** – low-fat fillings such as baked beans, spaghetti, tomato, onion, pineapple and Edam cheese.

**Baked beans in a cup**

**Baked potatoes** – with coleslaw, baked beans, Edam cheese, reduced-fat sour cream etc.

**Sushi stall / sandwich bar**

**Palusami, ‘otai, suruwa, sapasui and other traditional Pacific recipes with a healthy twist**


**Home-made pizzas** – cut into slices, or use split English muffins or pita breads as the base, add veggie toppings and cheese.

**Pumpkin or vegetable soup** – with a wholemeal bread roll.

**Roti / naan bread parcels**

**Burritos / tortillas / tacos** – with low-fat dressings.

**Fried rice, chop suey, vegetable curry**

**BBQ FOOD**

Mix cubes of meat with cut veggies, or do all veggies – fruit also works well.

**Veggie ideas:**

- Corn on the cob
- Courgette
- Capsicum
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cauliflower / broccoli florets
- Thin celery slices
- Mushrooms

**Fruit ideas:**

- Pineapple
- Kiwifruit
- Stone fruits
FOOD FOR EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING (CONTINUED)

Corn on the cob – great on the BBQ or you can cook them in the microwave, or boil / steam them on the stove top.

Egg sliders – fry an egg on the BBQ, place in an unbuttered wholemeal bun, add some salad ingredients – easy as!

Homemade burgers or steak sandwiches
  • Add lots of salad ingredients such as: cooked onions, coleslaw or salad ingredients (lettuce, tomato, beetroot)
  • Use unbuttered wholemeal bread / rolls
  • Use low sugar, low salt sauce
  • Use meat without visible fat

Sausage sizzles – NOT a healthy option, but if you have to have one, check out the following page.

DRINKS

Cold or hot water – jugs of tap water with lemon and mint.

Coffee – use reduced-fat milk; don’t add sugar.

Tea – have a selection of herbal and regular tea.

Fruit smoothies – use plain milk with fruit. Frozen bananas work well – also check out the ICECycles smoothie bike!

Message them at: https://www.facebook.com/icecycleschch/
HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHIER SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Choose lean varieties
Check out the food labels per 100g or choose a thinner variety e.g. a chipolata.

Prick and boil before cooking
This helps get rid of some of the fat as it leaks out into the boiling water.

Limit added fat
Sausages can cook easily without any added fat.

Soak up excess fat
By draining sausages on absorbent paper towels after cooking.

Slice your cooked low-fat sausage lengthways
With all the veggies you’re about to add the sausage can be split into two!

Add some fibre
Wrap your sausage in wholegrain or wholemeal bread. Grainy bread contains more fibre to fill people up.

Add some veggies...
The more the better - try grated carrot, diced tomato, beetroot, or how about some coleslaw?

Keep it low-salt / low-sugar
Standard tomato sauce is high in salt (sodium) and sugar. Look for low-salt / low-sugar varieties.
Rowley Avenue School

We had a healthier sausage sizzle for the students by using wholemeal bread with coleslaw. There was no fuss, the students enjoyed it, and it was a great day.

IDEAS FOR PRIZES AND REWARDS

- Consider non-material, eco-friendly rewards
- Stickers / stamps
- Place ribbons / rosettes
- Bubble blowing kit
- Balloons
- Colourful shoe laces
- Sports gear – e.g. volleyball, volleyball net, skipping rope, netball, soccer ball
- Knickknacks from $2 shop
- Bouncy balls / stress balls

Avoid giving children unhealthy food or drinks such as lollies or chocolate. Lollies and chocolate are high in fat and sugar, contribute to diseases including tooth decay, and provide very little benefit to children.
PRODUCTS TO SELL AS FUNDRAISERS

Make calendars, diaries, notepads, and computer mouse pads with children’s artwork
  • www.abacus.co.nz
  • www.fundraisingforschools.co.nz

Disaster plasters, first aid kits or tooth brushing kits
  • www.schoolaids.co.nz
  • www.firstaidfundraising.co.nz

Design tea towels or calico bags using children’s art
  • www.teatowels.co.nz

Sell eco friendly soap
  • www.ecostore.co.nz/pages/soap-fundraising-order-form

Sell food bowls, food wrap, roll-foil and baking paper
  • www.fundraiseplus.co.nz

Sell spring bulbs, lilies, seeds
  • www.gardenpost.co.nz/catalogues-and-newsletters
  • www.kingsseeds.co.nz

Water bottles – design your own label to go on them
  • www.purewai.co.nz/index.php
  • www.customwater.co.nz

Children’s name labels
  • www.stuckonyou.co.nz
  • www.nameit.co.nz

Poppa’s chalk
  • www.poppaschalk.co.nz

Sell foodwraps and ‘munch boxes’
  • www.munchnz.co.nz/fundraising

Cancer Society sunscreen
IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

• Hold a hangi – a great way to engage with parents and the community; kai cookers are an easier option.
• A sponsored walk / run / skip / trike / bikeathon
• Hold a book sale, such as selling Scholastic Books www.scholastic.co.nz/parents/book-fairs/
• A sponsored ‘shoot-out’ - number of goals, kicks, hoops etc
• Disco / dance
• Quiz night
• Talent quest / battle of the bands
• Treasure hunt
• Garden tour
• Mystery auction (art, services)
• Car boot sale
• Car wash
• Mufti day
• Movie night

OTHER IDEAS

• Raffle - choose healthy prizes
• Sell surplus produce, seedlings from your edible garden
• Make up and sell garden notices (names of herbs or ‘Grandma’s Garden’, ‘Pop’s veggies to share’)
• Healthy kai cookbook
• Raise money for a project online - www.givealittle.co.nz
• Entertainment books - www.entertainmentbook.co.nz

For even more, check out the Heart Foundation ideas here: http://www.fuelled4life.org.nz/resources – Download ‘Healthy Fundraising Ideas’
WEBSITES WITH HEALTHY RECIPE IDEAS

My Family Food  www.myfamily.kiwi/foods
Vegetables NZ  www.vegetables.co.nz
5+ A Day  www.5aday.co.nz
Potatoes NZ  www.potatoes.co.nz
Fuelled 4 Life  www.fuelled4life.org.nz
Pasifika  www.heartfoundation.org.nz/resources/pasifika-flavours-cookbook

If you would like further assistance with healthy events and fundraisers, please contact:

Community and Public Health  310 Manchester St
PO Box 1475
Christchurch 8140
ph (03) 364 1777

Community and Public Health  3 Tarapuhi Street
PO Box 443
Greymouth
ph (03) 768 1160

Community and Public Health  18 Woollcombe Street
PO Box 510
Timaru
ph (03) 687 2600

Community and Public Health  Elizabeth Street
PO Box 110
Ashburton
ph (03) 307 6902

Educational websites:
• http://health.tki.org.nz/Key-collections/Healthy-lifestyles/Food-and-nutrition-for-healthy-confident-kids

Free posters and pamphlets are also available to order from:
• http://www.cph.co.nz/order-resources/

Other healthy eating related information is available at:
• http://www.cph.co.nz/About-Us/Nutrition/
HEALTHY EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS
A guide for school and community event organisers

Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha