

9 Year Old Handout

Staying Healthy

- Encourage your child to eat healthy and be active. Be a healthy role model for your child.
- Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods, and encourage 3 servings each day.
- Include 5 servings of vegetables and fruits at meals and for snacks daily.
- Encourage whole grains.
- Avoid processed foods.
- Limit high sugar and high fat foods.
- Limit screen time outside of school work to 2 hours a day.
- Encourage your child to be active for at least 1 hour daily.
- Eat as a family often.

Safety

- The back seat is the safest place to ride in a car until your child is 13 years old.
- Use a booster seat until the vehicle's safety belt fits. The lap belt can be worn low and flat on the upper thighs. The shoulder belt can be worn across the shoulder and the child can bend at the knees while sitting against the vehicle seat back.
- Teach your child to swim and watch him/her in the water.
- Your child needs sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when outside.
- Your child needs a helmet and safety gear for biking, scootering, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.
- Talk to your child about not smoking cigarettes, using drugs, or drinking alcohol.
- Make a plan for situations in which your child does not feel safe.
- Get to know your child's friends and their families.
- Never have a gun in the home. If necessary, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
- Monitor your child's computer/tablet/phone use.
- Know who he/she talks to online.
- Install a safety filter on devices and discuss cyber safety with your child.
- You are your child's role model. Set a good example by limiting your screen time, especially by limiting your phone/screen use as much as possible during family time.

Your Growing Child

- Be a model for your child by saying you are sorry when you make a mistake.
- Show your child how to use his words when he/she is angry.
- Teach your child to help others.
- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Give your child his own space.
- Still watch your child and your child's friends when they are playing.
- Understand that your child's friends are very important.
- Answer questions about puberty.

- Teach your child the importance of delaying sexual behavior. Encourage your child to ask questions.
- Teach your child 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 your child's private parts.
- No adult should ask for help with his/her private parts.

School

- Show interest in school activities.
- If you have any concerns, ask your child's teacher for help.
- Praise your child for doing things well at school.
- Set a routine and make a quiet place for doing homework.
- Talk with your child and her teacher about bullying.

Healthy Teeth

- Help your child brush teeth twice a day.
 - After breakfast
 - Before bed
 - Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste with fluoride.
- Help your child floss his teeth once a day.
- Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Encourage your child to always wear a mouthguard to protect teeth while playing sports.

Poison Help:

1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:

1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org