



# BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ► PARENT

## 5 AND 6 YEAR VISITS

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

### ✓ HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- Spend time with your child. Hug and praise him.
- Help your child do things for himself.
- Help your child deal with conflict.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free. Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs. If you're worried about a family member's use, let us know, or reach out to local or online resources that can help.

### ✓ FAMILY RULES AND ROUTINES

- Family routines create a sense of safety and security for your child.
- Teach your child what is right and what is wrong.
- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Use discipline to teach, not to punish.
- Help your child deal with anger. Be a role model.
- Teach your child to walk away when she is angry and do something else to calm down, such as playing or reading.

### ✓ STAYING HEALTHY

- 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 his teeth once a day.
- Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Help your child be a healthy eater by
  - Providing healthy foods, such as vegetables, fruits, lean protein, and whole grains
  - Eating together as a family
  - Being a role model in what you eat
- Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods. Encourage 2 to 3 servings each day.
- Limit candy, soft drinks, juice, and sugary foods.
- Make sure your child is active for 1 hour or more daily.
- Don't put a TV in your child's bedroom.
- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

### ✓ READY FOR SCHOOL

- Talk to your child about school.
- Read books with your child about starting school.
- Take your child to see the school and meet the teacher.
- Help your child get ready to learn. Feed her a healthy breakfast and give her regular bedtimes so she gets at least 10 to 11 hours of sleep.
- Make sure your child goes to a safe place after school.
- If your child has disabilities or special health care needs, be active in the Individualized Education Program process.

**Helpful Resources:** Family Media Use Plan: [www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan](http://www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan)

Smoking Quit Line: 800-784-8669 | Information About Car Safety Seats: [www.safercar.gov/parents](http://www.safercar.gov/parents) | Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236

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### SAFETY

- Your child should always ride in the back seat (until at least 13 years of age) and use a forward-facing car safety seat or belt-positioning booster seat.
- Teach your child how to safely cross the street and ride the school bus. Children are not ready to cross the street alone until 10 years or older.
- Provide a properly fitting helmet and safety gear for riding scooters, biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
- Make sure your child learns to swim. Never let your child swim alone.
- Use a hat, sun protection clothing, and sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on his exposed skin. Limit time outside when the sun is strongest (11:00 am–3:00 pm).
- Teach your child about how to be safe with other adults.
  - No adult should ask a child to keep secrets from parents.
  - No adult should ask to see a child's private parts.
  - No adult should ask a child for help with the adult's own private parts.
- Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor. Test them every month and change the batteries every year. Make a family escape plan in case of fire in your home.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, 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.

Consistent with *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, 4th Edition

For more information, go to <https://brightfutures.aap.org>.

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