South Western Sydney Local Health District Healthy Family Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2023

- Information current as of 10 February 2023



Active play at home



Active play ideas for young children at home include:

- Movement games Simon Says or the Hokey Pokey.
- Ball games to roll, bounce, catch or bat.
- Imitation games young children love to imitate adults! Try clapping your hands or moving from sideto-side.
- Music choose action songs such as head, shoulders, knees and toes.

For more ideas, click here.





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Set clear rules for screen time



For more ideas, click <u>here</u>.

When managing screen time with children it is important to set clear rules. Here are some suggestions from the eSafety Commissioner: Device-free zones include -

- No devices in the bedroom for younger children.
- All screens off in bedrooms after a certain time for older children.
- All screens off at least an hour before planned bedtime.
- All family members switch off at dinner time.
- Charge devices overnight in a place your child cannot access.

Pack a healthy lunchbox

With children going back to school, it is important to think about how to pack a healthy lunchbox. Children can consume up to one third of their daily food intake at school, so it is important that their lunchboxes are filled with healthy and nutritious food. This will provide them with the energy and nutrients they need to grow, learn and play. It is also a great opportunity to teach children lifelong healthy eating habits.

Eat a **RAINBOW** of vegetables every day!

Different coloured vegetables provide different nutrients for growing bodies. Supplying kids with lots of different coloured veggies and fruit each day is the best kick-start we can give them for health, growth and concentration in the classroom.







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General health - meningococcal disease

Meningococcal



Know the symptoms Act fast

Meningococcal disease is a serious and sometimes fatal illness. It can affect anyone, but children under age 5 are most at risk. Early treatment is vital. Knowing the symptoms could help save your child's life.

Meningococcal symptoms include:

- Severe limb pain.
- Difficulty waking up.
- High pitched crying in babies.
- Severe headache.
- Upset by bright lights.
- Stiff neck.

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 Red-purple rash which doesn't disappear when pressed with a

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glass.

Viral gastro

Viral gastroenteritis (gastro) is a common infection of the stomach and intestines that causes vomiting and diarrhoea. Gastro can be caused by many different viruses. Viral gastro can be highly infectious so it can spread very easily.

Symptoms of viral gastro can include:

- Nausea.
- Abdominal pain.Headache.
- Vomiting.
 - Headache.
 Muscle aches.
- Diarrhoea.
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- Fever.
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- Symptoms can take up to three days to develop and usually last one to two days, sometimes longer. If symptoms persist, visit your GP.



Viral gastro is highly infectious

Do not send kids to childcare for **48 hours after** their symptoms have stopped.





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Give your baby the best start to life



<u>Get Healthy in Pregnancy</u> is a **free** and **confidential** NSW

SUBSCRIBE

Government phone-based service for all pregnant women in NSW. Professional health coaches will support you to develop motivation and tools to help you stay healthy during your journey from pregnancy to birth and beyond. **How the program works:**

- 1. **Register** for free online or call 1300 806 258.
- 2. **Receive** your free health journal and program pack.
- 3. **Set goals** for your pregnancy with guidance from your health coach.
- 4. **Schedule** and receive coaching calls at your preferred time.
- 5. **Support** to stay on track when you complete the course.

Benefits of health coaching during pregnancy:

Looking after your health and wellbeing during pregnancy can help you give your baby the best start to life. Some benefits of eating well and being active during pregnancy can include:

• Better sleep.

More energy.

- Improved digestion.
- Feeling less stressed and anxious.
- Less lower back pain.
- A more active labour.

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Do you want to get healthy in pregnancy?

- Talk to your health care professional or join now.
- Call 1300 806 258 (weekdays, 8am-8pm).



