

Sit less, move more, sleep well



at least

60
min



**Physical activity for
5–17 year-olds**

Be active



School-aged children and young people should be regularly physically active, reduce sitting and screen time, and get sufficient sleep for healthy development.

at least
one hour
of moderate to
vigorous physical
activity each day



An hour a day will help:

- develop strong muscles, bones and joints
- move with balance and flexibility
- develop and maintain a healthy heart and lungs
- maintain a healthy weight
- build self-confidence and social skills
- control their emotions
- improve academic achievement and behaviour.

The **more** they move,
the **greater** the **benefit**.

Physical activity is any movement of the body that uses energy.

Do a variety of activities – including some outdoors

- Moderate activities like swimming, biking on the flat, kapa haka and modern dance will raise the heart rate and get oxygen pumping round the body.
- Vigorous activities such as uphill tramping, mountain biking and most team sports have even greater benefits.
- Be active together. Enjoy the outdoors. Don't forget active transport – walking and cycling to school, shops and hobbies.
- Try new activities. Be supportive and encouraging.



Do activities that strengthen muscles and bones at least three days a week

- Skipping, jumping, and using climbing or park equipment will build muscle and bone strength.
- Bending and stretching will help flexibility.

Look for ways to encourage activity

Look for opportunities to move throughout the day, eg, walking or biking to school, taking the stairs not the escalator. Break up sitting time.



Limit recreational screen time to **less than two hours per day** – turn off the TV while eating, remove screens from the bedroom.

Try new activities or sports to discover which ones are most enjoyable. Parents can support these interests. Give feedback and praise.



Sleep recommendations



- 9–11 hours of quality uninterrupted sleep for 5–13 year olds.
- 8–10 hours of quality uninterrupted sleep for 14–17 year olds.
- Consistent bed and wake-up times for all ages.

Be active

Be active safely



- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Wear sunscreen for outdoor activities in summer.
- Have the right safety gear and wear it correctly.
- Know about and practise footpath and road safety.

If you have concerns about health or physical activity, talk to your doctor or nurse.

Join in the action

Do activities as a family. Turn off the TV for active playtime. Involve everyone in deciding what to do.

**Provide good fuel for action
and drink plenty of plain
water to stay hydrated**



Related resources

See also the companion pamphlet for adults, *Be Active Every Day*, HE2311.

Read more about healthy eating in *Eating for Healthy Children Aged 2–12*, HE1302, and *Healthy Eating for Young People*, HE1230.

You can look and order these, as well as other nutrition resources, at www.healthed.govt.nz

Additional information

Ministry of Health

www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/physical-activity

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-activity-and-sleep/physical-activity

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-activity-and-sleep/physical-activity/activity-guides

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-activity-and-sleep/sleeping

Sport New Zealand

www.sportnz.org.nz/get-into-sport/for-parents/

Regional Sports Trust

www.sportnz.org.nz/about-us/who-we-are/how-we-invest/regional-sports-trusts/

Feet First

<http://education.nzta.govt.nz/feet-first>

Walking School Bus

www.walkingschoolbus.org



This resource is available from www.healthed.govt.nz or the Authorised Provider at your local DHB.
Revised October 2017. 11/2018. Code HE2312.

New Zealand Government



MANATŪ HAUORA