A Healthy Plate

MyPlate is the USDA's latest food icon for healthy eating, replacing the food pyramid. WebMD offers up some tasty ways to make that plate great.

Fruits
Options:
- ½ cup berries (raspberry, strawberry, blueberries)
- 1 medium apple, banana, orange, or pear
- ½ cup fruit salad
- 1 slice melon (honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon)
- ¼ cup dried fruit (raisins, blueberries, cranberries)
- 4 ounces calcium-fortified 100% orange juice

Grains
Options:
- ½ cup couscous
- ½ cup oatmeal
- 1 slice whole wheat bread
- ½ cup bran cereal
- ½ cup pasta
- ½ cup brown rice
- Whole-grain crackers

Dairy
Options:
- 8 ounces low-fat yogurt
- 1.5 ounces low-fat cheddar cheese
- 8 ounces skim or low-fat milk
- 8 ounces fortified soy beverage
- 1.5 ounces low-fat string cheese
- ½ cup low-fat cottage cheese

Vegetables
Options:
- ½ cup broccoli
- 1 cup spinach salad
- ½ cup stir-fried vegetables
- ½ cup beans or peas
- 1 medium sliced tomato
- 1 cup vegetable soup
- 4 ounces vegetable juice

Protein
Options:
- 3 ounces salmon
- 3 ounces beef or pork tenderloin
- 1 boneless, skinless chicken breast (3 ounces)
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons nut butter
- 1.5 ounces nuts
- 4 ounces (½ cup) tofu

LESS
- Salt
- Saturated Fats
- Solid & Trans Fats
- Added Sugars
- Fast Food
- Refined Grains

MORE
- Seafood
- Whole Grains
- Low-fat Dairy
- Healthy Oils
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Lean Protein

Note: Kids need smaller servings than adults. But MyPlate’s proportions still count for kids. For example, fruits and vegetables should take up half their plate, though their plate is smaller than a grown-up’s plate.

Sources: Kathleen Zelman, MPH, RD
U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services:
"Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010."