

# WHAT IS A HEALTHY PORTION?

Food portions are larger than ever these days—usually much more than we need. Choose your starting portion size by relating food to everyday items.



**A serving of meat, fish, or poultry is equal to a deck of cards.**



**A serving of fruit or vegetables is about the size of a tennis ball.**



**A serving of nut butter or salad dressing is about the size of a ping-pong ball.**

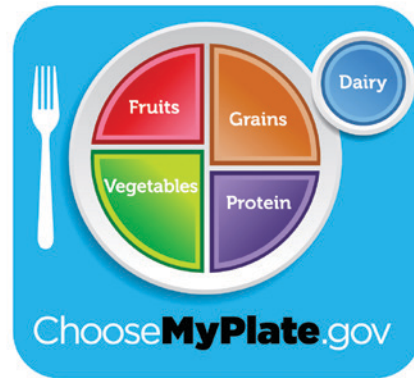


**For toddlers, the right portion size is the size of the palm of their hand.**

continued

## Use these tips to help keep your portions right-sized.

- Start with one portion of each food on your plate. If you are still hungry, you can always get more.
- Use the MyPlate model to create a balanced plate. Fill half of your plate with veggies (and/or fruit),  $\frac{1}{4}$  with protein, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  with starch, preferably a whole grain.
- Check the serving size on packaged foods for guidance on portion size.
- Eat your food while sitting down and using a plate or bowl. Avoid eating directly out of packages.
- Eat regularly throughout the day; this helps keep you from getting too hungry.
- Serve food on smaller plates.
- Serve meals from the stove. This can help you avoid eating more when you are no longer hungry.
- At restaurants, ask for a lunch-size portion, split your meal, or box up half to take home.
- Skip the “clean plate” club. Instead, start with smaller portions, savor your food, and eat until you are satisfied.
- Role model the behaviors that you want your children to develop.



no  
more  
clean  
plate  
club!