Bright Futures Parent Handout
7 and 8 Year Visits

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

Staying Healthy
• Eat together often as a family.
• Start every day with breakfast.
• Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods, and encourage 3 servings each day.
• Include 5 servings of vegetables and fruits at meals and for snacks daily.
• Limit TV and computer time to 2 hours a day.
• Do not have a TV or computer in your child’s bedroom.
• Encourage your child to play actively for at least 1 hour daily.

Safety
• Your child should always ride in the back seat and use a booster seat until the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt fit.
• Teach your child to swim and watch her in the water.
• Use sunscreen when outside.
• Provide a good-fitting helmet and safety gear for biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
• Keep your house and cars smoke free.
• Never have a gun in the home. If you must have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.

School
• Attend back-to-school night, parent-teacher events, and as many other school events as possible.
• Talk with your child and child’s teacher about bullies.
• Talk to your child’s teacher if you think your child might need extra help or tutoring.
• Your child’s teacher can help with evaluations for special help, if your child is not doing well.

Healthy Teeth
• Help your child brush teeth twice a day.
• After breakfast
• Before bed
• Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste with fluoride.
• Help your child floss her teeth once a day.
• Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.
• Encourage your child to always wear a mouth guard to protect teeth while playing sports.

Your Growing Child
• Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
• Hug, praise, and take pride in your child for good behavior and doing well in school.
• Be a good role model.
• Don’t hit or allow others to hit.
• Help your child to do things for himself.
• Teach your child to help others.
• Discuss rules and consequences with your child.
• Be aware of puberty and body changes in your child.
• Answer your child’s questions simply.
• Talk about what worries your child.

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222
Child safety seat inspection:
1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org

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