

Eat Healthy Be Active

Keeping Children
Healthy at Home
and School

www.eathealthybeactive.net

Use this activity to help
your child learn

FAMILY FUN

Hydration Station

What You Need:

- Water bottle
- Paper
- Markers

What To Do:

- Review with your child why it is important to drink water
 - “Our bodies need water to stay healthy, and without water we become dehydrated”
 - “If our bodies are dehydrated, it is hard for them to do their job”
- Help your child make a chart to keep track of how much water he or she drinks throughout the day
- Make columns for each day of the week
- Separate the columns with several boxes for your child to fill in
- Each time your child refills the water bottle, invite them to mark the chart
- Count the marks on the chart with your child
- This will help your child keep track of how much water he or she is drinking



DRINK WATER

Drinking water and staying hydrated is an important part of keeping your family healthy

Water Helps Children Succeed

When children are properly hydrated, they are better equipped to succeed during the day. Dehydration negatively affects mental and physical abilities, making it difficult for children to concentrate and participate in activities.

Children who have not had enough water also experience more headaches, sleepiness, and irritability.

Even if your child does not feel thirsty, it is important to drink water all day long. When you feel thirsty, you may already be starting to get dehydrated.

How can you help your child drink more water?

- Encourage your child to drink water at home
- Give your child water to drink instead of soft drinks or other sugary drinks
- Keep water handy so your child can help him or herself when thirsty
- Send a water bottle to school with your child

**Mayo Clinic. (2012). Water. Retrieved from www.mayoclinic.com/health/water/NU00283*