Nutrition Made Simple

By Tamara Aven

I remember years ago reading an article by William Sears on ADD and ADHD where Mr. Sears talked about how kids for the most part do not struggle with either ADD or ADHD rather they struggle with NDD (aka Nutrition Deficit Disorder). Mr. Sears did go on to say that ADD and ADHD are real and do affect some children; his concern however was the overuse of medication on children who really just needed adjustment in what they are eating.

In our fast paced lives, it often feels easier to grab something quick on the go and so we are often reaching for processed foods that are leaving our bodies in a state of deprivation. The other contributing factor is that so many quick snacks that kids want and of course enjoy are contributing to sugar addiction and leading to significant health problems at younger and younger ages.

As much as we are more "knowledgeable" with information, we seem to lack the skills and tools to make the choices that will lead to long, healthy and vibrant lives. The obesity rates are rising even with all of the information we have and our life expectancy rates are drastically on the decline. Let's change this!

I have been coaching now since January of 2015 and in that time, have implemented a nutrition system for myself and my family based on Autumn Calabrese's Ultimate Portion Fix. The nutrition plan is based on balancing macro and micronutrients so that our bodies are nourished and cells aren't screaming at us for sugar, sugar, sugar!

The idea behind this is simple - figure out how much of each food group you need based on age, gender, activity level and then EAT ONLY THAT!!! I appreciate that kids aren't really in charge of the grocery shopping or the meal planning at home. They can however be advocates for their own health and well-being. My own kids are very involved in meal planning, grocery shopping, and learning how certain foods affect them.

By bringing this to a classroom setting, we can start the discussion on the importance of knowing what our bodies need and how to make choices that will lead to success at school and in life!

In order to get started, you will need to know what each colour pertains to and the measurements of each:

- Green Vegetables 1 cup
- Purple Fruits 1 cup
- Red Protein 3/4 cup
- Yellow Carbohydrates 1/2 cup

- Blue Healthy Fats ½ cup
- Orange Seeds & Dressings 2 tbsp
- Spoons Nut Butters & Oils 1 tsp

Here are the food lists we choose from:

VEGETABLES: GREEN (1 cup)

Kale, cooked or raw

Watercress, cooked or raw

Collard greens, cooked or raw

Spinach, cooked or raw

Bok choy, cooked or raw

Brussels sprouts, chopped or 5 medium

Broccoli, chopped

Asparagus, 10 large spears

Beets, 2 medium

Tomatoes, chopped, cherry,

or 2 medium

Tomatillos, chopped or 3 medium

Pumpkin (regular or West Indian), cubed

Squash (summer), sliced

Chayote squash, chopped

Winter squash (all varieties), cubed

Seaweed (wakame and agar)

String beans/green beans

Peppers (sweet), sliced

Poblano chiles, chopped

Vegetable broth, 2 cups

Pickle, chopped

Banana peppers, 3 medium

Carrots, sliced or 10 medium baby

Cauliflower, chopped

Artichokes, 1/2 large

Eggplant, 1/2 medium

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Cactus (nopales), sliced

Jicama, sliced

Snow peas

Cabbage, chopped

Sauerkraut

Cucumbers

Celery

Lettuce

Mush rooms

Radishes

Turnips, chopped or 1 medium

Rutabaga, cubed

Onions, chopped

Sprouts

Bamboo shoots

Salsa (freshly made or pico de gallo)

FRUITS: PURPLE (1 cup)

Raspberries

Blueberries

Blackberries

Strawberries

Pomegranate seeds, 1/2 cup

Guava, 2 medium

Starfruit, 2 medium

Pomegranate, 1 small

Passion fruit, 3 fruits Watermelon, chopped $Kiwifruit, 2\,medium$

Mango, sliced

Peach, sliced or 1 large

Plum, 2 small

Pluot, 2 small

Nectarine, sliced or 1 large

Pear, sliced or 1 large

Pineapple, chopped

Banana, 1/2 large

Green banana, 1/2 large

Cantaloupe, chopped

Orange, divided into sections or 1 medium

Bitter orange, 1 medium Tangerine, 2 small Apple, sliced or 1 small

Apricots, 4 small

Grapefruit, divided into sections or 1/2 large

Cherries Grapes

Dwarf red banana, 1 1/2 small

Breadfruit, 1/8 small Papaya, chopped Figs, 2 small

Honeydew melon, chopped

Pumpkin puree Salsa (store-bought)

Tomato sauce (plain or marinara) Applesauce (unsweetened) Jackfruit (raw in water), 1/2 cup

PROTEINS: RED (3/4 cup)

Sardines (fresh or canned in water),

7 medium

Boneless, skinless chicken or turkey

breast, cooked, chopped Duck breast, cooked, chopped Squab, cooked, chopped Goat, cooked chopped

Lean ground chicken or turkey (93% lean), cooked

Fish, fresh water (catfish, + tilapia,

trout), cooked, flaked

Fish, cold water, wild-caught (+ cod, salmon, halibut, tuna), cooked, flaked

Game (buffalo, bison, ostrich, venison, rabbit), cooked, chopped Game: lean ground (95% lean), cooked

Eggs, 2 large Egg whites, 8 large Greek yogurt (plain, 2%) Yogurt (plain, 2%)

Shellfish (shrimp, crab, lobster), cooked Clams/ Octopus, cooked, chopped

Squid, cooked, chopped

Red meat (extra-lean), cooked, chopped Lean ground red meat (95% lean), chopped

Organic tempeh Organic tofu (firm)

Pork tenderloin, chopped, cooked Tuna (canned light in water), drained

Lox (smoked salmon), 4 oz

Turkey slices (nitrate- and nitrite-free).

6 slices

Ham slices (nitrate- and nitrite-free), 6 slices

Ricotta cheese, light Cottage cheese, 2%

Protein powder (whey, hemp, rice, pea), 1 scoop

Veggie burger, 1 medium patty (> 16 g protein and < 15 g carbohydrates per patty)

Turkey bacon (nitrate- and nitrite-free),

4 slices

Beef-based broth, 4 cups = 1/2 serving Chicken-based broth, 4 cups = 1/2 serving

CARBOHYDRATES: YELLOW (1/2 cup)

Sweet potato, chopped or mashed

Yams (regular, white, tropical [batata]),

chopped or mashed Plantains, sliced

Quinoa, cooked

Bulgur, cooked

Oatmeal (steel-cut or rolled), Muesli/granola, 1/4 cup Hominy, cooked

Popcorn (air-popped), 3 cups

Beans (kidney, black, garbanzo/ chickpeas, white, lima, fava, pink, pigeon, etc.), cooked, drained Lentils, cooked, drained Organic edamame, shelled

Water chestnuts Cassava (yuca), 2 oz.

Peas

Refried beans (nonfat)
Rice (brown or wild), cooked

Potato (russet), chopped or mashed,

or 1 small

Potato (red bliss or Yukon gold), mashed or 1 whole

Parsnips, cooked
Buckwheat, cooked
Barloy (wholo-drain)

Barley (whole-grain), cooked

Pasta (whole-grain), cooked Couscous (whole wheat), cooked Crackers (whole-grain), 8 small Cereal (whole-grain, low-sugar) Bread (whole-grain), 1 slice

Pita bread (whole-grain), 1 small (4-inch) Waffles (whole-grain), 1 small (4-inch) Pancakes (whole-grain), 1 small (4-inch)* English muffin (whole-grain), 1/2 muffin Bagel (whole-grain), 1/2 small (3-inch) Tortilla (whole-grain), 1 small (6-inch) Tortilla (corn), 2 small (6-inch)

Rice cakes, 2 whole Corn on the cob, 1 ear* Amaranth, cooked Millet, cooked

HEALTHY FATS: BLUE (1/3 cup)

Avocado, mashed or . medium

12 almonds, whole, raw

8 cashews, whole, raw

14 peanuts, whole, dry roasted 20 pistachios, whole, raw 10 pecan halves, raw 8 walnut halves, raw

Hummus

Coconut milk (canned) Feta cheese, crumbled Goat cheese, crumbled

Mozzarella (low-moisture), shredded

Cheddar, shredded Provolone, shredded Monterey Jack, shredded Parmesan, shredded Cotija cheese, crumbled Oaxaca cheese, crumbled Queso fresco, crumbled

NUTS, SEEDS & DRESSINGS: ORANGE (2 tbsp)

Pumpkin seeds, raw Sunflower seeds, raw Sesame seeds, raw Flaxseed, ground Chia seeds

Hemp seeds Pine nuts

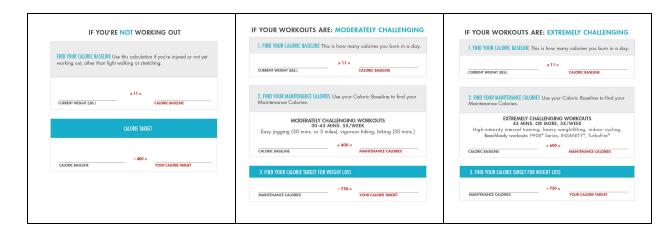
Olives, 10 medium* Coconut (unsweetened),

shredded

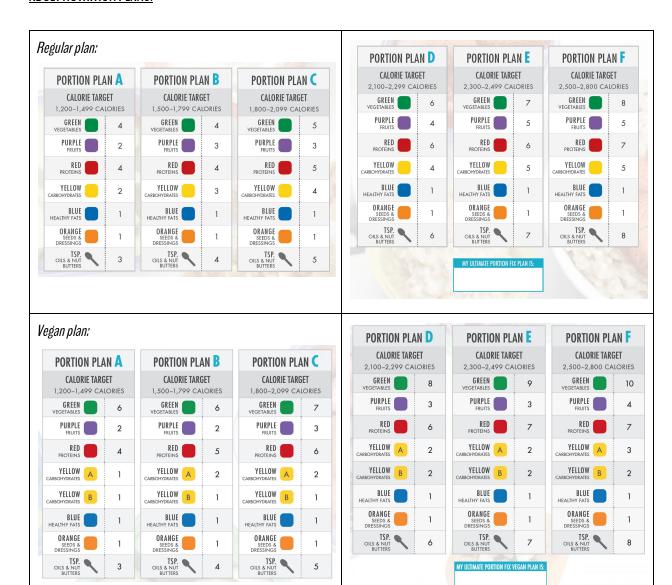
OILS & NUT BUTTERS: 1 spoon

Extra-virgin olive oil Extra-virgin coconut oil Flaxseed oil Walnut oil Pumpkin seed oil	Cacao nibs Nut butters (peanut, almond, cashew, etc.) Seed butters (pumpkin, sunflower, sesame [tahini])
Sesame oil	Butter or Ghee (clarified butter)

Now we move on to the planning and determination of how much food our bodies need based on age/gender/activity level. For adults:



ADULT NUTRITION PLANS:



Once you know your calorie intake as an adult, you can then determine how much of each food group you should be eating as well as then take this information and relate it to your own children or children you work with (using the children charts available). You will need to know which category each child falls in to:

- SEDENTARY A child who gets no other physical activity other than recess/gym at school. Spends 2 hours a day or more on sedentary leisure activities such as reading and electronic devices.
- MODERATELY ACTIVE A child who has recess/gym but also participates in a sport or other regular physical fitness activity 2—3 times a week for an hour or more at a time OR spends at least an hour a day, 3 days a week or more playing outside, riding bikes, playing basketball, etc.
- ACTIVE A child who has an hour or more of moderate to intense physical activity daily.

KIDS NUTRITION PLANS:

For females: For males:

	SEDENTARY FEMALE CHILD						
	4-8 YEARS 9-13 YEARS 14-18 YEARS 1,200-1,400 CALORIES 1,400-1,600 CALORIES 1,800 CALORIES						
GREEN VEGETABLES		2½-3½	3½−4	4½-5			
PURPLE FRUITS		2½-3	3–3½	31/2-4			
RED PROTEINS		2–2½	2½-3	31/2			
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		4½	4½	5⅓			
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1			
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1			
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	3	4	5			

	SEDENTARY MALE CHILD							
	4—8 YEARS 9—13 YEARS 14—18 YEARS 1,200—1,400 CALORIES 1,600—2,000 CALORIES 2,000—2,400 CALORIE							
GREEN VEGETABLES		2½-3½	3½-5	5-61/2				
PURPLE FRUITS		2½-3	31/2-41/2	4½-5½				
RED PROTEINS		2–2½	3–4	4–5				
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		4½	5½	6½-7				
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1				
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1				
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	3	4–5	5–6				

MODERATELY ACTIVE FEMALE CHILD						
		4-8 YEARS 1,400-1,600 CALORIES	9-13 YEARS 1,600-2,000 CALORIES	14–18 YEARS 2,000 CALORIES		
GREEN VEGETABLES		3½-4	4–5	5½-6		
PURPLE FRUITS		3–3½	3½-4½	4½-5		
RED PROTEINS		2½-3	3–4	4		
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		4½	5½	61/2		
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1		
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1		
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	4	4–5	5		

MODERATELY ACTIVE MALE CHILD						
		4-8 YEARS 1,400-1,600 CALORIES	9–13 YEARS 1,800–2,200 CALORIES	14-18 YEARS 2,400-2,800 CALORIES		
GREEN VEGETABLES		3½–4	4½-6½	6½-8½		
PURPLE FRUITS		3–3½	3½-4½	5½-6½		
RED PROTEINS		2½-3	3½-4½	5–5½		
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		4½	5½-6	<i>7</i> –8		
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1		
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1		
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	4	5–6	6–8		

ACTIVE FEMALE CHILD					
		4-8 YEARS 1,400-1,800 CALORIES	9–13 YEARS 1,800–2,200 CALORIES	14–18 YEARS 2,400 CALORIES	
GREEN VEGETABLES		3½−5	5–6½	61/2-7	
PURPLE FRUITS		3–4	4–5	51/2-6	
RED PROTEINS		2½-3	3–4	5	
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		4½-5½	5½–6	7	
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1	
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1	
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	4–5	5–7	7	

ACTIVE MALE CHILD							
		4–8 YEARS 1,600–2,000 CALORIES	9-13 YEARS 2,000-2,600 CALORIES	14–18 YEARS 2,800–3,200 CALORIES			
GREEN VEGETABLES		3½–5	5–7½	8–9			
PURPLE FRUITS		31/2-41/2	4½-5½	61/2-8			
RED PROTEINS		3–3½	3½-5	51/2-61/2			
YELLOW CARBOHYDRATES		5½-6	6–8	8–9			
BLUE HEALTHY FATS		1	1	1			
ORANGE SEEDS & DRESSINGS		1	1	1			
TSP. OILS & NUT BUTTERS	9	4–6	6–8	9–10			

NOTE ON PORTIONS:

Portion ranges give you and your child wiggle room. You'll notice the largest ranges are fruits and vegetables. If your child is hungry, vegetables and fruits make a great snack! For ranges found in protein, carbohydrates, and teaspoons, the lower end typically suits children at the lower age range for that group while the larger serving sizes suit the older children. In addition, modifications can be made based on unique daily variations in activity level, growth spurts, etc.

Depending on your child's age, he or she may not consume a full container in one sitting. For example, you may only wish to serve 1/2 of a Red Container (Proteins) at a time for a child 4 years of age. The numbers included in the chart above are total daily recommendations.

Resources you will need:

- Eat the Rainbow
- Tally Sheets
- Meal Planning Chart
- Food Lists to choose from
- Grocery List

NOTE ON PROGRAM:

This takes time to learn and implement, so please allow yourself the time and space to read through the resources, familiarize yourself with the food lists and start planning with your family. This program is sustainable for life and in a very short time, you'll be able to take with you anywhere and everywhere the ability to fuel your body properly with foods that are balanced when it comes to macro and micro nutrients. This is a way of life and when you know you'll be eating those sweets (yellow container) or for adults drinking wine, etc. (also yellow container), you can substitute out those occasional events as your yellows and still feel fabulous!

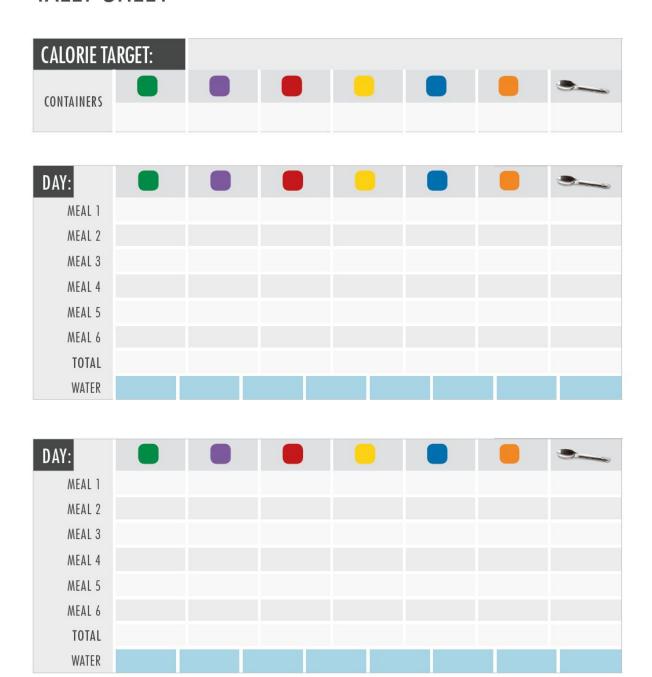


YOUR NAME

EARN 1 POINT FOR EVERY CIRCLE YOU FILL IN FOR DRINKING A GLASS OF WATER OR EATING A HEALTHY FOOD EVERY DAY. IF YOU TRY SOMETHING NEW, YOU EARN A STAR! AT THE END OF THE WEEK, IF YOU'VE EARNED AT LEAST 3 STARS AND 50 POINTS, YOU EARN YOUR REWARD!

PORTION F	O WATER	VEGGIES	FRUIT	PROTEIN	CARBS	FATS	SEEDS & DRESSINGS	OILS & NUT BUTTERS
MONDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
TUESDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
WEDNESDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
THURSDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
FRIDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
SATURDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
SUNDAY	0000	0000	000	000	0000	0	0	0000
Try Somethia	ng New							
Daily P	oints							
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TALLY SHEET



Meal plans for the Week:

Day	Breakfast	Snack	Lunch	Snack	Dinner	Snack
Monday						
T .						
Tuesday						
Wednesday						
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday						
Sunday						
TOTALS						

Fruits & Veggies	Meats/Meat Alternatives	Breads/Grains/Pastas
Dairy	Frozen Foods	Miscellaneous
Dally	110261110003	Miscellalieous