



# Bright Futures Patient Handout

## Early Adolescent Visits

PHYSICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### Your Growing and Changing Body

- Brush your teeth twice a day and floss once a day.
- Visit the dentist twice a year.
- Wear your mouth guard when playing sports.
- Eat 3 healthy meals a day.
- Eating breakfast is very important.
- Consider choosing water instead of soda.
- Limit high-fat foods and drinks such as candy, chips, and soft drinks.
- Try to eat healthy foods.
  - 5 fruits and vegetables a day
  - 3 cups of low-fat milk, yogurt, or cheese
- Eat with your family often.
- Aim for 1 hour of moderately vigorous physical activity every day.
- Try to limit watching TV, playing video games, or playing on the computer to 2 hours a day (outside of homework time).
- Be proud of yourself when you do something good.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

### How You Are Feeling

- Figure out healthy ways to deal with stress.
- Spend time with your family.
- Always talk through problems and never use violence.
- Look for ways to help out at home.
- It's important for you to have accurate information about sexuality, your physical development, and your sexual feelings. Please consider asking me if you have any questions.

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC COMPETENCE

### School and Friends

- Try your best to be responsible for your schoolwork.
- If you need help organizing your time, ask your parents or teachers.
- Read often.
- Find activities you are really interested in, such as sports or theater.
- Find activities that help others.
- Spend time with your family and help at home.
- Stay connected with your parents.

VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

### Violence and Injuries

- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Do not ride ATVs.
- Wear protective gear including helmets for playing sports, biking, skating, and skateboarding.
- Make sure you know how to get help if you are feeling unsafe.
- Never have a gun in the home. If necessary, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
- Figure out nonviolent ways to handle anger or fear. Fighting and carrying weapons can be dangerous. You can talk to me about how to avoid these situations.
- Healthy dating relationships are built on respect, concern, and doing things both of you like to do.

RISK REDUCTION

### Healthy Behavior Choices

- Find fun, safe things to do.
- Talk to your parents about alcohol and drug use.
- Support friends who choose not to use tobacco, alcohol, drugs, steroids, or diet pills.
- Talk about relationships, sex, and values with your parents.
- Talk about puberty and sexual pressures with someone you trust.
- Follow your family's rules.



## American Academy of Pediatrics



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