# Guide To Healthier Snacking

## Fruit & Veggies Groups

- Any whole fruit
- 1/2 cup canned or frozen fruit
- 1/4 cup dried fruit
- 1/2 cup chopped vegetables
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 2 tbsp guacamole

Choose frozen or canned fruits & vegetables with no sauce, no added-sugar, and in water or light syrup.

## Protein Group

- 1 oz cheese (1 slice or 1 string piece)
- 1 cup (8 oz.) plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup cottage cheese
- 2 tbsp hummus
- 1/4 cup unsalted nuts and/or seeds
- 2 tbsp nut butter
- 1 hard boiled egg

\*Choose lower-fat dairy options

# (Whole) Grains Group

- Whole grain crackers, pretzels, gold fish, bread, bagel, tortilla, cereal, etc.
- Rice cake
- Popcorn ("light" options have less salt & fat)
- Tortilla chips

Choose products with at least 2g of fiber per serving

Mix & match the snack ideas from each box below

Peach Slices Raisins Apple Bell Peppers Carrot Sticks Broccoli Florets



Cheese Stick Egg Hummus Cottage Cheese Nuts & Seeds



WG Triscuits WG Wheat Thins Cheerios Corn Tortilla Chips Whole Wheat Toast



Cambridge Public Health Department



Healthy snack ideas for your family!

# **Tips To Make Healthy Snacks**

## Food Groups Are Better Together!

#### Try these tasty combos:

- Dried fruit + Cheese Stick
- Fruit + WG Crackers
- Sliced Vegetables + Hummus
- Pineapple + Cottage Cheese
- Apple + Nut Butter
- Cheese Slice + WG Bread
- Nuts/Seeds + Pear



### Whole Grains Are Best!

Look for the whole grain stamp OR read the ingredient list to see if "whole grain" or "whole wheat flour" is the first ingredient.



\*Choose products with at least 2 grams of fiber per serving.

### **Focus On Water!**

#### Choose tap water to keep kids hydrated.

- Skip the juice and sugar-sweetened beverages.
- Encourage/remind children to drink water throughout the day and give them a reusable water bottle.





## The Amount Counts!

Younger kids need less, and too much food on the plate can be overwhelming. Try offering a smaller amount and provide more if they are still hungry.

- Offer a 1/2 sandwich or 1/2 cereal bar at a time!
- If you buy in bulk, check the serving size and offer one serving at a time.



#### **Less Processed is Better!**

#### Look for products with fewer ingredients (the fewer the better).

- Choose the naturally-occurring sugar in fruits rather than added-sugar found in candy, soda, baked goods, etc.
- Stick to low-sodium options (less than 140 mg per serving is low sodium).
- Choose healthy fats like those in avocado, nuts & seeds rather than less healthy ones found in potato chips, greasy foods, etc.





#### Food Safety is Key:

- \* Always check for food allergies
- \* Send snacks with a cold pack