Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption has increased dramatically since the 1970s; high intake among children is associated with overweight and obesity, displacement of milk consumption, and dental cavities. The AAP recommends that children 1–6 years old consume no more than 4–6 ounces of 100% juice per day and youth 7–18 years old consume no more than 8–12 ounces. Water provides a low-cost, zero-calorie beverage option and is a healthy alternative to sugary drinks.

Did you know?

• Soda has no nutritional value and is high in sugar. Just 9 ounces of soda has up to 150 empty calories. Many sodas also contain caffeine, which kids don’t need.

• Sugar-sweetened beverages can make you feel full and then you won’t be hungry for healthy foods and drinks.
Here’s what **you can do**

**Put limits on juice**
- Juice products labeled “-ade,” “drink,” or “punch” often contain 5% juice or less. Sometimes, the only difference between these “juices” and soda is that they have added Vitamin C.
- Make healthy choices: Always try to choose whole fruits over juice.
- Think water first: Suggest a glass of water or milk instead of juice.
- If you choose to serve juice:
  - Buy 100% juice.
  - Each day, juice should be limited to:
    - 4-6 ounces for children 1-6 years old.
    - 8-12 ounces for children 7-18 years old.
    - No juice for children 6 months and under.

**Water**

**Keep It Handy, Keep It Cold:**
- Keep bottled water or a water bottle on hand.
- Fill a pitcher of water and keep it in the fridge.

**Liven it up, make it fruity**
- Add fresh lemon, lime, or orange wedges to water for some natural flavor.
- Try mixing seltzer with a splash of juice.

**Be a role model**
- Drink water when you’re thirsty.
- Replace soda with water, instead of other sugar-sweetened beverages, such as juice or sports drinks.

**Water is fuel for your body**
- Between 70-80% of our body is made up of water.
- When you exercise, you sweat, and when you sweat, you lose water— it is important to replace the water you lose when you sweat.
- Water is the #1 thirst quencher!

Energy drinks are NOT sports drinks and should NEVER replace water during exercise.

**5-2-1-0 EVERY DAY!**

It’s OK to cut back slowly on sugar-sweetened drinks. Aim to drink a little more water and a little less sugary drinks each day.