STRATEGY 2: Limit or Eliminate Sugary Drinks; Provide Water

why does this matter

Limiting sugary drinks is a key way to promote healthy eating and prevent excess weight gain in kids. Research shows that sugary drinks contribute to childhood obesity.

Sugary drinks provide a lot of calories very quickly. This is a problem because it’s easy to drink more than your body needs before your body has a chance to signal that it is full. Also, sugary drinks are usually additions to your regular diet, adding calories that your body does not need.

A 12-ounce serving of soda has the equivalent of 10 teaspoons of sugar. One serving of soda per day could lead to a 15 pound weight gain in one year. Each additional daily serving of soda increases a child’s risk of obesity by 60%.

Water provides a low-cost, zero-calorie beverage option and is a healthy alternative to sugary drinks. Drinking water is linked to a number of health benefits. It can improve kids’ readiness to learn and is the best first choice for hydration before, during, and after most exercise routines.

References