



TEACHER'S GUIDE

Elementary school module for diabetes prevention education

Hello.

Thank you for choosing to teach your students about the importance of health and wellness.

We hope that with this guide, you will feel supported in educating your students about preventing diabetes.

As you may know, type 2 diabetes continues to threaten the health and well-being of our community. Approximately 45 percent of adults in Monterey County have diabetes or prediabetes, and type 2 diabetes is rising in children at alarming rates.

Our mission is to change the beliefs and behaviors about type 2 diabetes by educating your students on how small changes to diet and physical activity can make a significant difference.

Ultimately, our goal is to:

- decrease the number of children receiving diabetes diagnoses
- reduce the overall risk of diabetes
- build a stronger and healthier community

In response, the Monterey County Office of Education has partnered with the Healthy Youth Task Force and Aspire Health to provide diabetes prevention education in our schools through the Don't Feed the Diabetes campaign.

Below are notes and resources for a web-based curriculum for your students. The lesson plan promotes healthy lifestyle habits and health literacy related to type 2 diabetes, and addresses why choosing water over sugary drinks is healthier.

At the end of the lesson plan, there is a slide with an attestation link. This is to help us track the schools and number of students who participated, and also helps with Blue Zones Project accreditation.

If you have any questions, please contact diabetes@aspirehealth.org

Thank you for providing this diabetes education to your students and helping to create a healthier generation for Monterey County, together.




SLIDE 3 — WELCOME CLASS

Today we are going to talk about diabetes. Who has heard of diabetes before? Whether or not you've heard of diabetes before, you may have a friend, a family member, or even a classmate that has diabetes without even knowing. One of the first things to know is there are different types of diabetes that have different causes. We are going to learn about type 2 diabetes today because it is a type of diabetes that can sometimes be prevented by making healthy lifestyle choices.



SLIDE 4 — INTRODUCING THE BEAST


Before we get our lesson started, there is someone you need to meet — The (type 2 diabetes) Beast. Let's watch this video to learn more about The Beast. **PLAY VIDEO.** 

- What did you learn about The Beast by watching the video?
- What do the people in the video do that makes The Beast happy?
Answer options: going to a fast-food restaurant, eating donuts, drinking soda, watching TV, playing video games
- What do the people in the video start doing that makes The Beast leave town?
Answers options: exercise, play sports, play in the park, drink water, choose a healthy snack, learn more about type 2 diabetes

Great work. Now you know a little more about The (Type 2 Diabetes) Beast and you know that the way we eat and how much we move our bodies matters. We'll talk more about this later in the lesson.



SLIDE 5 — HOW DOES YOUR BODY TURN FOOD INTO ENERGY?

We just met and learned about The Beast. Now let's learn more about how the food we eat gives us the energy we need to jump, learn, and play and what we can do to keep The Beast away. **PLAY VIDEO.** 

- What did you learn from the video?
- What helps glucose enter our cells and give us energy? (Insulin)
- And when glucose can't enter our cells and we have too much glucose in our blood, it is called what? (Diabetes)
- What risk factors can put you at risk for type 2 diabetes? (Weight, family history, age, too much sitting, food we eat)

Great job. Now you've learned more about how our body turns the food we eat into energy and what type 2 diabetes is. Remember, the healthy choice is your choice. And we'll learn how to make healthy choices today.



SLIDE 6 — HOW CAN WE PREVENT DIABETES?

Move more and make healthy food choices.

Fruits and vegetables are foods we want to eat more of to be healthy. Which are some of your favorites? Some examples are on the slide. **ALLOW FOR STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

Another thing we can do is move more. What could you do to move your body more? Some hints are on the slide. **ALLOW FOR STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**



SLIDE 7 – ACTIVITY 1: MOVEMENT GAME

(2-3 MINUTE ACTIVITY) Let's move our bodies a little bit right now. I'll ask everyone to stand up, and we'll play a quick game of Simon Says.

- Simon Says, jump in place two times.
- Simon Says, touch your toes.
- Touch your nose.
- Simon Says, march in place until Simon says stop.
- Simon Says, stop.
- Stand on one foot.
- Etc.

How did that make you feel? **ALLOW FOR STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**



SLIDE 8 – WHAT CAN WE DO EVERY DAY TO PREVENT DIABETES?

Thanks for sharing, everyone. You have great ideas on how to move more and eat healthfully. I'm going to share with you a special tool you can use to help you make healthy choices EVERY DAY to defeat The (type 2 diabetes) Beast.



SLIDE 9 – PREVENTING DIABETES WITH 5210

The 5210 tool is like a checklist you can use every day to help you make healthy choices. Has anyone heard of the 5210 tool before? We'll go through what each number means:

- **Everyone hold up five fingers in the air.** You should try to eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day. So when you see me hold up a "5", you think fruits and veggies
- **Everyone hold up two fingers in the air.** You should try to spend no more than 2 hours using screens for recreational use per day, i.e. TV, tablets, phones. So when you see me hold up a "2", you think screentime
- **Everyone hold up your pointer finger in the air.** You should try to get 1 hour or more of physical activity per day. So when you see me hold up a "1", you think physical activity
- **Everyone make a "0" with your hands.** You should have zero sugary drinks per day. Water is best. So when you see me make a "0" with my hands, you think no sugary drinks.

Now, to make sure we have it down, I'm going to hold up my hand with different numbers and you all shout out what the number stands for. Ready?

HOLD UP 5,2,1, OR 0 FINGERS, IN A RANDOM ORDER, SEVERAL TIMES, FOR THE STUDENTS TO SHOUT THE CORRECT ANSWERS.



SLIDE 10 — AIM TO HAVE AT LEAST 5 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES EVERY DAY

Alright. Now that you all know what 5210 stands for, let's learn more about each number. We'll start with "5", which stands for? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER** — 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

One serving of vegetables can look like a half cup of fresh or frozen vegetables, and one serving of fruit looks like a half cup of fresh or frozen fruit. This is a picture of how to create a balanced plate or meal. How much of the plate are fruits and vegetables in this picture? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

At each meal about half of our plate or meal should be fruits and vegetables.

When it comes to eating fruits and vegetables, eat the rainbow. Our bodies need fruits and vegetables because they help us to keep moving, thinking, and growing.

Fruits and vegetables of different colors have different vitamins and minerals that work together to help our body be strong.

- What is your favorite fruit that is red? Vegetable that is red? Red food gives you a strong heart
- What is your favorite fruit that is orange? Vegetable that is orange? Orange food helps you see in the dark
- What is your favorite fruit that is yellow? Vegetable that is yellow? Yellow food helps your body heal cuts
- What is your favorite fruit that is green? Vegetable that is green? Green food helps you fight off sickness
- What is your favorite fruit that is blue/purple? Vegetable that is blue/purple? Blue/purple foods give you a strong brain
- What about white fruit or vegetable? White foods give you energy

Fruits and vegetables also give us fiber to help us feel full and satisfied. Aim to have fruits and vegetables at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

What food groups are on the other half other plate? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

ANSWER: Grains and protein. When it comes to grains, we want to try to replace white, processed grain with whole grains such as whole wheat bread and brown rice instead of white bread and white rice. Notice that protein is only a small portion of the plate. It's important to try to choose lean proteins most of the time, meaning protein that does not contain a lot of fat. Examples: chicken, fish, plain Greek yogurt, beans, peas, lentils, tofu, lean beef, egg whites.

A healthy plate consists of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein. These are foods we get to enjoy EVERY DAY.



SLIDE 11 — KNOW YOUR SOMETIMES FOODS

There are some foods we need to watch out for. Remember the types of foods The Beast enjoyed in the video? Hint: French fries, pizza, donuts, soda, cookies, etc.

We can call these foods, SOMETIMES foods, because while it's OK to eat them sometimes or once in a while, it would be unhealthy to eat them every day. These foods tend to have a lot of fat and sugar, two things The Beast loves. And even though some sweets are colorful, they don't have the vitamins and minerals like fruits and veggies do because the color is artificial rather than natural.



SLIDE 12 — ACTIVITY 2: CATEGORIZING FOODS

Let's practice deciding whether a food is an "Eat more" food or an "Enjoy sometimes" food.

AS A GROUP, DECIDE WHICH FOOD ITEM GOES INTO WHICH CATEGORY.

What are some of your favorite snacks that would go into the "Eat more" category?

And what about some snacks you enjoy, but only sometimes?



SLIDE 13 — LESS SCREEN TIME, MORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

To defeat The Beast, it's also important to move our bodies and make sure we're not sitting still for long periods of time. Let's all stand up again and march for 1 minute.

START MARCHING.

While we march tell me what kinds of activities do you enjoy that keep you sitting for long periods of time?

ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER (EXAMPLES: TV, VIDEO GAMES, READING, DRAWING).

These activities can be a lot of fun, and you can absolutely still do them. You will just want to make sure you are getting up and moving your body every once in a while, like during commercial breaks, in-between game levels, or at every chapter.

Alright everyone can sit down now. What kinds of activities do you enjoy that get your body moving?

ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER (EXAMPLES: SPORTS, DANCING, SCOOTER, BIKING, WALKING, RUNNING). Remember, to reach 1 hour of physical activity per day, you can be active in short periods that add up to one hour. That minute of marching you just did counts. Does anyone know how many minutes are in 1 hour?

60 minutes in an hour, correct. So in one day you might play basketball for 30 minutes at school, scooter for 15 minutes when you get home from school, march for 5 minutes during commercial breaks while watching TV, and then walk for 10 minutes after dinner with your family. $30 + 15 + 5 + 10 = 60$ minutes.



SLIDE 14 — WHAT DRINKS HAVE SUGAR?

Last, but not least — one of the things The (type 2 diabetes) Beast loves the MOST is sugary drinks. What drinks do you think have sugar in them? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

- Examples: Soda, juice, Starbucks drinks, Gatorade, sweetened teas like Arizona Iced Tea

ANSWER: All of them.

Some of these drinks can have as much sugar in them as eating one or two candy bars. And remember, we said eating candy is a sometimes food. Its better to drink other beverages instead to keep The Beast away. It's important that we know which drinks have sugar in them so we can do our best to avoid them.



SLIDE 15 — 0 SUGARY DRINKS

So, instead of making those drink choices, what drink choices can you make that are healthier? Hint: there are some examples on the slide.

- Examples: WATER, low-fat milk, unsweetened iced tea, unsweetened carbonated water

Drinking water is very important to staying healthy and is the beverage we should choose most of the time.



SLIDE 16 — MORE WATER PLEASE

Can you guess which drink has zero sugars in it?

- **ANSWER:** WATER. You can drink as much water as you want and it won't make the amount of glucose in your blood rise, making it the healthiest choice.

Water is extremely important for us to drink because it helps our body function properly, and many people don't drink enough water. If you don't like plain water you can try adding fruit to your water, or you can try carbonated water.

Did you know... **REFER TO THE SLIDE.**

True or False? FALSE. You can hydrate by drinking water, and you can also "eat your water".

What are some fruits with water? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

ANSWER OPTIONS: Watermelon, apples, peaches

What are some vegetables with water? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

ANSWER OPTIONS: Cucumbers, celery, lettuce, tomatoes



SLIDE 17 – ACTIVITY 2: CATEGORIZING DRINKS

Let's practice how to choose healthy drinks with a game.

Which drinks do we want to drink more of? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER**

Which drinks do we want to only drink sometimes?

Hint: These drinks might have some sugar in them, but they have other nutrients in them too that can make your bones strong and help you get more fruits and veggies.

Which drinks do we want to say “no” to? Hint: These drinks are mostly sugar, with no other nutrients.

Great work, everybody. By drinking more water and fewer sugar drinks, you are on your way to defeating The (type 2 diabetes) Beast.



SLIDE 18 – THANK YOU

Great job everybody. Today you learned how you can defeat The (type 2 diabetes) Beast with your healthy choices. Repeat after me: I am smart. **<CLASS REPEATS>** I can defeat the beast. **<CLASS REPEATS>** How will we defeat The Beast? **ALLOW STUDENTS TO ANSWER.**

Remember, you can defeat The (type 2 diabetes) Beast by eating 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day, keeping your screen time to less than 2 hours per day, getting at least 1 hour of physical activity per day, and drinking 0 sugary drinks per day.

Thank you for being such a great class today. Visit dontfeedthediabetes.com with your friends and family so they can learn how they can defeat The Beast, too.

Resources

DIABETES INFORMATION

- Don't Feed the Diabetes — dontfeedthediabetes.com
- CDC website — cdc.gov/diabetes
- American Diabetes Association — diabetes.org

FOOD GROUPS/MYPLATE

If you are interested in more educational materials, we encourage using these engaging MyPlate lesson plans that are a part of the CalFresh Healthy Living Nutrition program that focuses on the 5 food groups and eating healthier.

- [Fruit Bitmoji lesson](#)
- [Vegetable Bitmoji lesson](#)
- [Dairy Bitmoji lesson](#)
- [Protein Bitmoji lesson](#)
- [Grains Bitmoji lesson](#)

These can be used as a lesson in several settings. The students can click on the links and follow along with the audio recordings during asynchronous learning or you can teach virtually during synchronous learning or in-class sessions. If you would prefer, the CalFresh team can connect with you to complete the lesson virtually during one of your class sessions. Embedded in the lesson plans are audiobooks, cooking demos, and physical activity sessions. Some of the lessons have worksheets attached as well.

There is also a [teacher survey linked here](#). It would be helpful if you fill this out after completing the lesson and return to the contact information provided below. As an incentive, prizes can be provided for your students to all teachers who complete a lesson and return the survey.

For questions regarding the CalFresh Healthy Living Nutrition program, please contact:

Niaomi Hrepich
WIC Director, Health Program Coordinator
Monterey County Health Department
nhrepichns@co.monterey.ca.us