# **LOAD UP** ON FRUITS AND VEGGIES

The benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables go far beyond helping to maintain a healthy weight. Think about better skin, fewer wrinkles, healthier teeth and gums and lower risk of diseases. As parents, we canplay a big role in helping our families load up on vitamin-packed fruits and vegetables — by serving more athome, increasing the variety and quantity available and setting a good example by eating them ourselves. Try these creative ideas to boost fruit and veggie consumption at your house.

### **Getting Healthy Together**

- **1** Try making smoothies or slushes. Blend ice with fruit and some yogurt or a little low-fat milk, and your kids can "drink their fruit." You can even sneak in some carrots for a delicious breakfast beverage.
- 2 Put some grapes or bananas in the freezer to make fruit more fun. These cold, healthy treats can be eaten like popsicles!
- Serve raw veggies with ranch dip or some salsa to add a little zip. Your family will love these crunchy treats packed with zesty flavor. Keep carrots in a glass of water to keep them crisp and ready for a fast snack. Add veggies or fruit to the baked goods your family already loves. Blueberry pancakes and carrot muffins are always a big hit — and healthy, too!
- Serve your soups, stews and sauces with extra veggies. Sneak them in, shredded or cooked, and your family will get a healthy bonus. They may not even notice the difference.
- **5** Get fruity with your peanut butter! Serve apple slices or grapes with peanut FIVE butter, or try a peanut butter and banana sandwich.

### EATING OUT TIPS

- Trade the fries for a healthier option like sliced apples or a salad.
- Order a kids' meal for smaller portions, and resist the urge to super size!

#### **Conversation Starters**

What's your favorite fruit?

What's your favorite vegetable?

Did you know carrots can actually

improve your night vision?

## ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDSCS