

Health is a Journey!! One Day at a Time!!

15 Years old!! WOW! What are you Doing with your Life?? *The Healthiest Kids make good choices!!* (Decreases stomach aches, headaches and more!!!)

Develop Healthy Habits to meet Long-Term Goals! (LTG= Skills, Belonging, Giving and Independence)

Check out the **“Heads” Up Checklist** for ways you can be the **Special Person** you **Want to Be!!**

Home	<p>S: Help at home with chores (laundry, cooking, housekeeping) G: Help family members with their activities and support their interests B: Share time, like eat meals together, go to events together I: Volunteer to help (taking responsibility for something like the laundry!)</p>	<p>◇ I do my Laundry. ◇ I can cook healthy meals. ◇ I go to bed on time, get up easily, am not grumpy. ◇ I smile and laugh with my family everyday. ◇ I do something to help my family every day</p>
Education Employment	<p>S: Learn many different things G: Share knowledge with others B: Be in other interest groups (sports, clubs) I: Volunteer to learn extra or do extra things</p>	<p>◇ I work to learn things, even if I don't like something. ◇ I work extra hard on things that are harder for me. ◇ I volunteer to learn something new or do things for others.</p>
Eat	<p>Eat Breakfast Eat 5 veggies, 3 calciums, 2 proteins Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day Limit the pop and sweets</p>	<p>◇ I eat breakfast with protein, even if I don't feel like it. ◇ I think about my eating (and don't just "snarf" mindlessly). ◇ I stop eating while I'm a little hungry. ◇ I don't eat "empty calories" (sugar drinks, sweets, breads, pastas).</p>
Exercise	<p>5-7 times a week Consider aerobic, strengthening, stretching</p>	<p>◇ I have a planned exercise plan (sports, other). ◇ I take extra exercise opportunities, like taking stairs instead of the elevator. ◇ I do extra things like house cleaning. ◇ I exercise during commercials.</p>
Activity	<p>I: Time Management: How do you spend time and are you content with what you are getting done? Who you spend time with? S: Make Media healthy choices: use media for education and to help others B: Plan healthy activities with others G: Share activities with others</p>	<p>◇ I know how I use time. I plan what I want to get done. ◇ I know how not to contact strangers on the internet. ◇ I know how texting can make me feel bad and what to do. ◇ I know what sexting is and how to avoid this. ◇ I know how not to waste time with media.</p>
Drugs	<p>S: Know your own meds, and how to use them B: Know what serious problems can happen with many drugs, like tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroine, MDMA, and others "Using" can affect your life! <i>How do you score: (None are good-2 or more- very serious risk)</i> Car-Ever driven, been in car with "high" driver Relax-Ever use to relax? Alone-Ever use when alone? Forget-Ever forget things after using? Friends- Does anyone suggest you should cut back? Trouble- Ever been in trouble (legal or with school or job?)</p>	<p>◇ I know my medical condition, and how to treat it, order my meds, and when to call if there is a problem. ◇ I always have a plan to get out of an unplanned bad situation that may involve drugs, or violence or other illegal activities ◇ If I use, I know I have an increased chance for addiction and have a plan to pay for rehab.</p>
Depression	<p>Everyone feels "down" sometimes. Depression has many causes. Sometimes we can do things to help the feelings, like eat healthy food, get enough sleep, and exercise. Sometimes we have to just recognize we have the "down" feeling, then try to go on. If it gets too strong, we need to ask for help. Answer these questions PHQ2- Ask Dr. Greta!!</p>	<p>◇ I know when I feel depressed ◇ When I feel "down" I work on eating, sleeping and exercise. ◇ I do things with others when I feel down. ◇ I know who to call if the down feelings get scary.</p>
Sleep	<p>Most teens need 8-10 hours of sleep a night. Media can cause serious problems with getting good sleep, because of the lights and the worry about text messages. It takes about 2 hours to be ready to go to sleep, after turning off all media and most types of lights. Get YOUR MELATONIN to FLOWIN'!! Extra noise keeps the brain from cycling normally.</p>	<p>◇ I stop media 2 hours before I lay down. (Melatonin Flowin'!) ◇ I turn my media completely off or charge it in another room. ◇ I don't have other noise on when sleeping ◇ I don't feel tired in the day or need extra weekend sleep.</p>
Sex	<p>Sexual desires are natural and normal. Sexual feelings and desires are hard to understand and can cause unwanted behaviors. Diseases are common and can cause serious problems. Pregnancy is very hard on the teen mother's body and on the body of the unborn baby. Being good parents for the new unborn baby is a challenge for teen parents who still have a lot of things they want to do before becoming good parents.</p>	<p>◇ I know the safest way to avoid sexual diseases and pregnancy is no sexual contact, no genital secretions contact. ◇ I know that "sex" activities are more than just intercourse. ◇ I know that condoms won't stop sex diseases. ◇ I know that pregnancy can happen in spite of birth control. ◇ If I choose sex, I am ready to get treatment for diseases and/or pregnancy, and I have a plan to pay for these. ◇ I have a plan to get out of a situation, if it becomes violent or unwanted.</p>
Safety	<p>Risk taking is normal as we explore new things. Knowing when something could be dangerous is learned from questioning the activity, listening to others' advice, and not rushing into an action! Vehicle safety issues (as passenger and as driver) Sometimes we are in violent settings. If this happens, sometimes asking for help is the best thing</p>	<p>◇ I follow traffic laws. ◇ I don't text or talk on the phone while driving. ◇ I don't drive late at night. ◇ I don't drive while tired or distracted. ◇ I wear a seat belt every ride. ◇ I know how to not be a bully and what to do if I am bullied. ◇ I know what to do if I am in a potential violent situation.</p>

Health is a Journey!!

What to expect at 15 Years Old!!!

Where will **YOUR JOURNEY** lead???. Choose **DESTINATIONS**, **PATHWAYS**, and **GPS HABITS** to get there....

One Day at a Time!!

The **Healthiest Kids** work for these “Destinations” on the **JOURNEY**: How are **YOU** getting **HEALTHY** with these **DESTINATIONS**?



SKILLS: Things you can do and learn and use to make things better



BELONGING: Being a useful part of a group to make things better

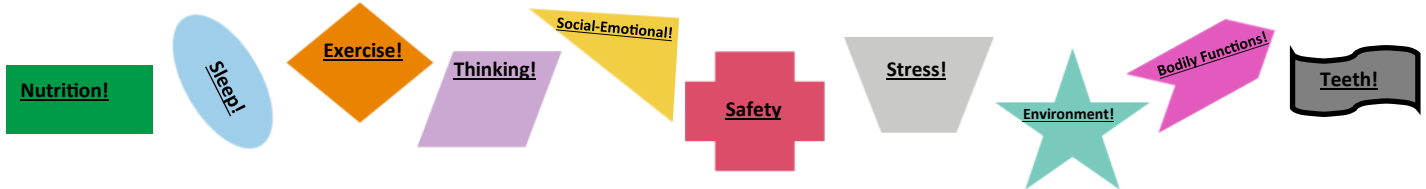


GIVING: Giving your time and talents to make things better



INDEPENDENCE: Thinking and acting on your own to make things better

The **Healthiest Kids** choose Short Term Goals or **PATHWAYS** to do everyday to be Healthy. Which will you Choose to develop?



The **Healthiest Kids** choose Daily Habits, called **GPSs** (Gene’s Problem Solvers!) to get the **Pathways** done to reach **Destinations**!

Pathway-Nutrition

- ◇ Stop the Pop! Delete the Sweet! Vamoose the Juice!
- ◇ BMI less than 85... Percentile
- ◇ Toddlers; Take the Dip... in BMI
- ◇ Otter Drink your Water!

Pathway-Exercise

- ◇ Quit the Sit!!
- ◇ Be Heroic-Do Aerobic...Exercise!
- ◇ Go the Distance with Resistance
- ◇ Lengthen to Strengthen!
- ◇ Fetch the Stretch

Pathway-Sleep

- ◇ 10 hours a night
- ◇ No media in the bedroom

- ◇ Ways to go to sleep

Pathway-Teeth

- ◇ Don't share Spit!
- ◇ “Give a Swig” after eating/drinking
- ◇ Brush/floss 1-2 times a day

Pathway- Social/Emotional

- ◇ Share with /Help Others
- ◇ Smile/laugh
- ◇ Be thankful
- ◇ Read others’ emotions

Pathway- Cognitive (Brain Thinking)

- ◇ Make your Thought Stream Supreme!
- ◇ Read to Succeed- Perceive and Achieve- Solve and Evolve
- ◇ Math is the Path—Attention = Extensions & Dimensions

Pathway- Environment and Safety

- ◇ Use sunscreen
- ◇ Wear seat belts
- ◇ Don't smoke or use drugs
- ◇ Are you Mired in the Media Mélange?
- ◇ Disaster Drills

Pathway- Stress

- ◇ Practice WAIT!
- ◇ Pick a Calm the Qualm technique

Pathway-Bodily Tasks (each TSK may have a specific need, like working on Constipation, or urine accidents, or asthma... so... fill in the blank!)

- ◇ “Spy Inside” for a particular problem, like headaches or stomachaches— or just feeling Yucky!

One Day at a Time!! START HERE →

for **YOUR HEALTHY JOURNEY!!!**

So... **Pick** something **HEALTHY** to work on this year!

What is it?

How will you do it?

Make a plan!

TELL DR. GRETA about!!!!

Parents— Give that Kid a hug!

Kids— Give your Parents and Grandparents a hug!



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Health is a Journey!! One Day at a Time!!



Gene, Dr. Greta's Advisor

THANK YOU for sharing your journey with Dr. Greta and her advisor, Gene. Together, you will explore the wonders of your child's growth and development. We will explore how to use Short Term Goals to reach your Long Term goals... and how to enjoy the Journey... One Day at a Time! Under the tutelage of Gene, this material is developed by

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15 Year s Old is a GREAT AGE!!

MORE INFO IN DEPTH.....

The 15 & 16 Year Visit!! Neurotransmitters and The Adolescent Express? Fueled by Hormones, & monitored by the Grumpiness Factor, your teen's neurotransmitters are at a special risk of derailing your teen due to substance abuse and violent tendencies! Beware!!

TERMS TO KEEP IN MIND

Puberty = the changes from child to adult, that are triggered by chemicals in the body, called Hormones.

Esteem Issues & Risky Behaviors = When a teen doesn't feel he or she is as good as everyone else, he or she will try to prove to self and others that he or she IS worth something. This leads to Risky behaviors (reckless actions, like with driving, aggressiveness or violence to control others, abnormal uses of sex, and substance abuse, among others).

Grumpiness Factor = a Dr. Greta term for an observable reason for your teen's behavior. For example, poor diet, or lack of sleep may make your teen act ten times worse than normal, so the Grumpiness Factor is 10! (A fudge factor for you scientists out there!) Parents can become experts in recognizing the various Grumpiness Factors in their own teens!

Neurotransmitters = chemicals in the brain that allow areas to function. Some help us wake up, some help us go to sleep, some make us happy or content, some make us angry. Most of the drugs (tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs) act likely our own neurotransmitters, but they are stronger, and in the teen brain, can cause more damage, especially addiction. This means that the brain will need more and more all the time. **This is why teens get addicted easier than older people.** Violence makes its own type of neuro-

transmitter impact on the brain, so that people who have experienced violence first hand are more likely to be a part of violence throughout their lives.

All Aboard for the Adolescent Express!! Through the Teen-Aged Brain!!!!

The Brain and Neurotransmitter Affect on Violence and Drug Abuse

Usually when we don't feel good, something is "out of whack"; and often it may be related to not eating properly, not getting enough exercise or sleep, or we are working on some issue that makes us emotional. Sometimes there is a physical illness. The hope is that we can find a way of living to help ourselves feel good most of the time, without using drugs, except for illnesses. Addiction happens to people because they are usually trying to make themselves feel better. But the problem is, that with addiction, more and more of the thing is needed. This includes drugs, but also, activities like sex, gambling, and violence. These last three are thought to give an adrenalin rush. (Some people choose professions like fire fighting, or ambulance work for the adrenalin rush, though they can control this, and aren't considered "addicted".) Some people have gotten addicted to extreme exercise, since after a certain point, the body puts out a chemical like morphine, called endorphin.

Teen Need: Often a teen starts an addictive behavior because of friends, or to feel accepted by others. See the Esteem Issues and Risky Behaviors above.

Teen Tendency: Once a teen gets a "taste" of any addicting substance or activity, his or her brain often changes, and he or she will get addicted much more easily, than an adult.

Result: **Grumpiness Factor**, up to 10, as addicts usually have short fuses.

Physical Problems, Depending on the substance, different organ systems are affected, as well as most people eventually have sleep problems and other emotional concerns, such as depression.

Social Problem, school work decreases, and often the teen drops out, can't keep a job, and isn't able to develop relationships. Violence can be a result of all these stresses.

What to do? Be sure you are a good role model and providing a healthy loving environment for your teen.

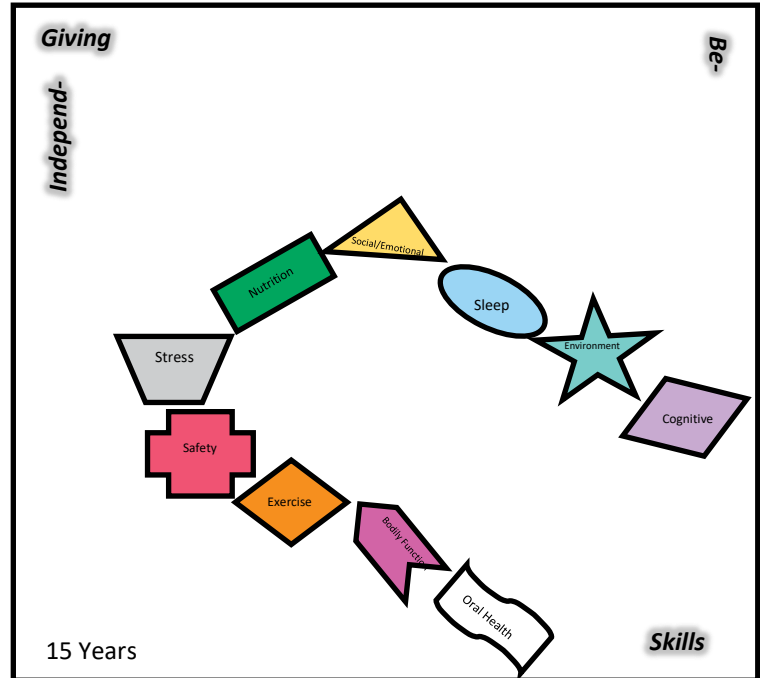
But if you have any concerns, Get help soon! Waiting NEVER makes the situation better.

Health is a Journey!!

What to expect between 15-16 Years!

When to Call or Ask for Help!

The Journey..... Is made of **Short Term Goals** that you choose or at least control somewhat. These will lead to **Long Term Goals**, like being **Independent**, to **Belong**, to develop **Skills**, and be **Giving** when your child grows up! How exciting is that? And it happens, almost before you know it, so watch those Short Term Goals, One Day at a Time!



One Day at a Time!!

And it all happens each Day as you make choices! Here are a list of things to possibly add to your Healthy Child Calendar, to be sure they get done:

Healthy Child Calendar

Pick one up to use as a reminder!!!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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A Day in the life..



*Give that kid a hug!
Gene....and Dr. Greta*