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# **Methods for Motivating Your Little Ones to Make Healthy Choices**

The first word most children learn is "no," and you may struggle to find ways to create engagement and appreciation for ideas that aren't instantly gratifying. Use these suggestions from <u>Bloomfield Gymnastics</u> to help your kids enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

## **Try Digital Cleanses**

Improve the family's mindfulness and social connection by <u>taking regular breaks</u> from your devices. Don't leave <u>analog activities</u> to chance, though. Allow the children to research and decide on fun and inspiring things they can do during their digital detox.

#### **Instill Nutritious Habits**

Share the importance of a healthy diet. While relaxing or watching your favorite show, nuts, fruit, or a smoothie are preferable to chips, cookies, and soda. By <u>consuming healthy options</u> during fun times like movie nights and sports games, kids associate healthy food with good memories, and the nutritious items are more enjoyable.

Help everyone feel the benefits of eating wholesome snacks by using a <u>journal</u> to log eating habits and how they feel afterward. Children will quickly note how sugary snacks make them listless and hungry, whereas healthful refreshments infuse them with energy. Make sure filtered water and healthy foods are always available.

#### Turn the Home Into a Refuge for Mental Health

Kids need to view the home as a haven to unwind and share their feelings. Plan the home environment together, giving little ones a say in the interior decorating. Research organization ideas for ways to keep the home clean and clutter-free, which also improves safety. Improve lighting with dimmable smart bulbs and strategically placed mirrors. Plants create a soothing and nurturing atmosphere and are a perfect addition to a meditation space.

## **Create a Family Fitness Routine**

Look into a gym membership for the family, but don't limit exercise to the fitness center. Purchase video games with a physically interactive element and compete for high scores. Head to the park to play together on the playground or take a bike ride. Kill two birds with one stone by turning chores into active games. Stay on the lookout for <a href="new activities">new activities</a> and plan them into your schedule.

### **Demonstrate the Dangers of Addiction**

If peers present drugs and alcohol abuse as an exciting outlet for their frustrations, kids are more likely to give vices a try. It's never too early to explain the hazards of experimenting with addictive substances, including <u>prescription medications</u>, and research shows frank discussions curb the prevalence of abuse. Instead of glossing over news reports or the struggles of individuals fighting substance abuse, plainly and respectfully explain the nature of the illness and show kids how to avoid the pitfalls.

# **Highlight the Value of Sufficient Sleep**

Poor sleep habits wreck anyone's mental and physical health. Set the example with regular bedtimes and awaken with time to get a good start to the day. Teach children <u>nighttime rituals</u> to get them in the mood for slumber.

# **Encourage Creativity in Their Education**

Work with your children's teachers to find unique and creative methods for learning. An excitement for study and investigation carries over into an innovative and fulfilling career. Implement self-directed learning where possible. Research indicates that children with greater choice in their lesson plans and structure have stronger motivation to learn, enhance their natural strengths and talents, and learn collaboration skills.

Making healthy decisions can be practical and fun. Work as a team to help the family live better and healthier, and your kids will flourish into balanced adults.

<u>Bloomfield Gymnastics</u> has been providing coaching excellence for over 40 years. Call 248-335-6770.