



## ***Caring for your 7 - 8 year old***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Be Safe**

#### ***Seat Belt***

- Use them every time your child is in a car.

#### ***Drowning***

- Do not allow your child to ride in the back of a pickup.
- Swimming pools should have a fence around them with a self-locking gate.
- Learn CPR.
- Constantly supervise your child when she is around any body of water.
- Knowing how to swim does not make your child "drown-proof."

#### ***Injuries***

- Teach your child about the dangers of diving into lakes and rivers.
- Buy a bike helmet and teach safe riding on bicycles, skateboards, and skates.
- Bike helmets should be worn for all bike riding, skateboarding, and roller-skating use, even in the backyard.
- Lock up electrical tools, poisons, and matches.
- Unload and lock up firearms when not in use. Store ammunition in a separate place.
- Any unused refrigerator, freezer, or ice chest should be locked or have the door removed.

#### ***Personal Safety***

- Teach your child not to accept unwanted touching from others.
- Teach your child not to follow or accept food from strangers.
- Teach your child what to do in case of a fire in the home and how to call 911.

### **Nutrition**

- Try to have family meals with pleasant conversation.
- Your child should be drinking low-fat cow's milk.
- Try to avoid conflicts over eating.
- Offer a balanced diet with small portions.
- Watch out for empty calories (cookies, crackers, fruit snacks, fruit juice, etc.).
- Teach your child about healthy foods.
- Eat breakfast every day.



## Parenting

- Assign simple chores.
- Praise good behavior/show affection.
- Try not to yell or spank.
- Try not to nag or lecture.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Teach natural consequences (for example, broken toys don't get replaced).
- Use family conferences and negotiation to resolve problems.
- Be a good role model.
- Establish fair and understandable rules.
- Limit TV and video game time to two hours a day or less.
- Turn the TV off during meals.
- Screen TV for sex, violence, and profanity.
- Brush teeth daily and use floss regularly.
- Schedule a semi-annual trip to the dentist for your child.
- Encourage regular exercise (walks after dinner, etc.).
- Encourage reading and hobbies.
- Obtain a library card for your child.
- Work on communication with your child.
- Promote the individual strengths of your child; build self-esteem.
- Encourage age-appropriate independence and self-responsibility.
- Provide an allowance and guidance in using it.
- Encourage participation in sports.
- Puberty may begin as early as 8 years old for girls and 10 years old for boys.
- You may want to begin family sex education.
- Use sunscreen for prolonged sun exposure.
- Keep in contact with school regarding child's progress.

**Next Visit:** Your child's next check up is at **9-10 years old.**

### **Recommended Reading:**

*Your Child's Health*, Schmitt  
*Your Child's Self Esteem*, Briggs, D.  
*Active Parenting*, Popkin, M.  
*Siblings Without Rivalry*, Faber, A.  
*The Hurried Child*, Elkind, D.