



Families Matter

The Importance of Self Care

Self-care is a set of deliberate actions people take for themselves to establish, improve, or maintain mental, physical and spiritual wellness.

The concept of self-care includes:

HYGIENE The way you maintain cleanliness, both generally and personally.

NUTRITION The type and quality of food you eat.

LIFESTYLE How you engage in physical exercise and leisure activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS This includes your living conditions and social habits.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS Your income level, cultural beliefs, education and social support system

Ways to practice Self-care

GET SOME SLEEP Get 7-9 hours of sleep each night to improve your focus, decision-making skills, memory and creativity.

GO OUTSIDE Sunlight triggers the release of serotonin, which helps you feel happier and less anxious.

REST YOUR MIND Meditation can reduce anxiety, depression, headaches, insomnia and more.

STRETCH IT OUT Stretching increases blood flow and circulation to your muscles and brain.

WRITE IT DOWN Journaling boosts your mood and reduces symptoms of depression

We care about you! You deserve to be the very best version of yourself, both personally and professionally, and we are here to support you in your self-care. Studies show that prioritizing self-care increases productivity, reduces stress and anxiety, and improves your sense of self-worth.

Shamrock Sponge Garden:

Cut a small sponge or terry cloth washcloth into a shamrock shape and place it on a plate. (Tracing around a cookie cutter for the shape makes it easy!). Let your child sprinkle some seeds on the sponge or cloth and set the plate in the sunlight. Show your child how to add a little bit of water to the base of the sponge or cloth to keep it damp. Soon your shamrock will be covered with green!

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**POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
EXTENSION**

Inside this issue:

Meal Planning	2
Snack Dips	2
ER Preparedness	3
Flashlight Fun	3
Exercise Idea	3
March Activity	4
Quick Fix Recipes	4

Dip Baby Dip!



What's healthy to dip with?

Fresh Fruit Wedges & Slices

Apples Pears Peaches Oranges
Grapes Berries Pineapple Mango

Veggie Slices & Sticks

Carrots Celery Cucumber Tomatoes
Zucchini Asparagus Broccoli
Green Beans Bell Peppers Sweet Peas

Whole Grain Crackers

Pretzels

Baked Pita Chips

Mini Rice Cakes

Unsalted Tortilla Chips



Fruit Dip Deluxe!!

- 1 1/2 cups nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1 cup reduced fat creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Refrigerate 30 minutes or longer. Eat within 3-4 days.

(10) 1/4 cup servings: 180 calories, 10g Fat, 1.5g Saturated Fat, 0mg

Don't Double Dip!

-Dip Etiquette-

Wash your hands before anything!!

Add a spoon to the dip! This will remind people not to dip, instead serve dip on a plate.

Make individual snack cups. Try serving dip ahead of time in small cups, place your veggies or fruit inside the cup! Super easy and no sharing!



It's ok to flip! Let's say your dipped with a carrot...it's ok to flip the carrot to the other end and re-dip!

Green Food!

March and St. Patrick's Day is a great time to introduce green food to young kids.

Talk about how green food, is good for you. At least 3 days a week we need to eat green leafy vegetables.

Make Family Mealtime a Priority!

Kids who eat a meal with their families learn and get along better with peers better

Simple Tips:

Shop your Pantry and Freezer

Have Theme Dinners

Do Simple Sides

Plan Leftovers

Utilize the Web and Friends!

Shop your Pantry and Freezer First: Before you head off to the store. Look to see what items you have on hand and what ingredients you might need to turn those into meals.

Theme Nights: Dinners come together faster when you don't have to think about the parts. Themes like; Mexican, pasta, etc. help you come up with a main dish and quick sides to help round out your meal plan. Or, themes can be Soup on Wednesdays, or grilling on Fridays.

Simple Sides: Make sure you keep your side dishes simple. Utilize quick cooking methods for vegetables like microwave steaming, or throw in a pan and bake it items. A good guide is two vegetables or a fruit and vegetable.

Plan Leftovers: Make more of certain items to use as leftovers or "planned overs" later in the week.

Easy Kale Chips

- 1 large bunch kale, tough stems removed, leaves torn into pieces
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat to 400 degrees F. If kale is wet, pat dry with a clean kitchen towel; transfer to a large bowl.

Drizzle the kale with oil and sprinkle with salt. Fill 2 large rimmed baking sheets with a layer of kale, making sure the leaves don't overlap. (If the kale won't all fit, make the chips in batches.)

Bake until most leaves are crisp, switching the pans back to front and top to bottom halfway through, 8 to 12 minutes total.

Make Ahead Tip: Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 2 days.

Serving Size: about 2 cups - 110 calories; protein 5.3g; carbohydrates 15.8g; dietary fiber 5.6g; sugars 3.5g; fat 4.6g; saturated fat 0.6g; calcium 202.7mg; sodium 210.1mg; thiamin 0.2mg.

EatingWell.com

5 TIPS TO PREP BEFORE A STORM

- 1 GATHER WATER, FOOD AND MEDICATION.** Have a three-day supply of water bottles, canned foods and any medication. 
- 2 HAVE FIRST AID KITS READY.** Keep and regularly fill two first aid kits—one for the house and another for a vehicle. Add a whistle to signal for help during an emergency. 
- 3 ASSEMBLE BATTERY-OPERATED TOOLS.** Keep a flashlight, battery-operated lantern and radio ready. Don't forget extra batteries. 
- 4 KEEP CASH ON HAND.** If ATMs and credit card machines are out of order because of a storm, you can still get supplies you may need. 
- 5 CREATE A COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.** It should include an agreed meet up location and important phone numbers. 

 **Consumers Energy**
Count on Us

TEXT during a storm—don't call.
Many times lines are tied up with high call volume but texts will go through.

Build a Kid Kit or GO Bag!

Being prepared for a storm can help make it less scary. Help your kids build a storm kit of their own.

Include a flashlight, bike helmet, juice box and crackers, a small toy or stuffed animal, crayons and paper, and books for them to take along if they need to take shelter.

This will help them feel more in control and less likely to feel as scared.



FEMA.gov
redcross.org



For great resources for you and your family!



Flashlight clean up

To pick up quickly, tag an item with a flashlight beam that needs to be put away. Run to see who can get it the fastest.

Playing flashlight games can also help them get used to using and seeing a flashlight, which is helpful in storm season!

Keep them Moving!

Each time a commercial, pop-up ad or video ends ... get up and move—run in place, do jumping jacks, walk or march, do sit ups, etc.

For TV each commercial break has about 3-5 minutes worth of moving! OR make them stand up while playing a game or watching videos.

GET READY TO GARDEN

Start your planning now!

Although spring is still a few weeks away, it is already time to plant several cool season vegetables. It is also time to start the planning process for those yummy tomatoes, okra and squash you will eat this summer.

A lot of vegetables and flowers are scheduled to be planted between March 1st and April 15th in Oklahoma.

Visit the OSU Extension Website for great Resources!



The Families Matter E-newsletter is one way the Pottawatomie County Cooperative Extension Service, Family & Consumer Science programs provides educational resources in our community.

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POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
EXTENSION

Shamrock SLIME!

¼ Cup Clear glue ½ cup Water
¼ tsp Borax Shamrock Confetti
Chunky Green and Gold Glitter



Take two small bowls and add 1/4 cup of water to each. In one bowl add 1/4 cup of clear glue and a generous sprinkle of glitter and shamrock confetti. In the other bowl add 1/4 teaspoon of borax. Mix each bowl well.

Slowly stir the borax mixture into the glue mixture and watch your slime begin to form! Keep stirring until everything is mixed well.

Store your shamrock slime in a sealed container when you're not playing with the slime. And as always, keep out of reach of small children. (As in anyone young enough to potentially eat the slime!)"

Source: <https://asthebunnyhops.com/shamrock-slime/>

Note: This recipe uses a very small amount (1/4 tsp) of Borax. Children should never be allowed direct contact with undiluted borax. Always monitor small children playing with slime.

Quick Fix Recipes

Green Eggs and Ham

4 whole wheat English muffins, toasted
4 (1 oz) slices Canadian bacon
1 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 medium onion, chopped
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped (optional)
1 (2 oz) canned chopped green chilies
½ teaspoon pepper
3 eggs
¼ cup milk
4 slices of Swiss cheese

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion, jalapeno (optional), green Chiles, and pepper. Fry, stirring, until onions are soft. Whisk together the eggs and milk; pour into the skillet. Stir frequently until eggs are scrambled and cooked through. Place one slice of Canadian bacon on each bottom muffin halves, then a spoonful of the scrambled egg mixture, then top with a slice of Swiss cheese. Place the other half of the muffin on the top, and serve.

4 servings: 384 calories, 19g total fat, 16g saturated fat, 201mg cholesterol, 30g carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 25g protein, 979mg sodium, 490mg calcium. Food Exchanges: 1 ½ grain, 2 ½ lean meat, 2 fat.

Vegetable Nachos

1 c. diced tomato
1/4 c. diced green pepper
2 Tbsp. sliced green onions
2 Tbsp. chopped ripe olives
2 Tbsp. chopped green chilies
2 tsp. white vinegar
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/8 tsp. freshly ground pepper
corn tortilla chips
1/4 c. (1 oz.) shredded 40% less fat sharp Cheddar cheese

Combine first 8 ingredients. Spoon 2 teaspoons vegetable mixture on each tortilla chip; divide cheese evenly among chips. Broil 6 inches from heat 1 minute or until cheese melts.