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Food for Thought for the Holiday Season

By Deborah Fredericks, Nutritionist at Shenandoah Valley WIC

Don't wait until the first of January to undo the holiday damage and turn over a new leaf. Start now before the additional calories and pounds come on!

Here are some tips on how to be healthy during the holidays and continue throughout the year.

1. Watch your portions. Eat the same thing, but eat less.

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- 2. Divide the inner portion of your plate into 4 quarters. Fill one quarter in with meat,1 quarter fill in with starch and fill the last two quarters with vegetables. Do not have seconds.
- 3. Watch what you are drinking. Check out the calories on those sodas. Cut back on the sodas and drink more water. Cutting back or cutting out sodas will help you lose weight. Water, water and more water.
- 4. If salad is available at dinner, eat it first. Watch the salad dressing just a little, or eat it plain.
- 5. Plan activities for after those holiday feasts, go for a walk or a hike. Play a game of touch football, or kick ball or something that is fun for all!
- 6. Eat at least three meals, even Thanksgiving Day. Don't skip a meal or two so that you can eat whatever you want at dinner. Eat throughout the day, so you won't overeat at dinner.
- 7. Plan activities throughout the holiday season. This is a wonderful time to take advantage of the family gatherings and both adults and the kids will like it too.
- 8. When you are doing your holiday shopping, park further away and make several trips to the car with your purchases. This is a great way to increase your activity.
- 9. When you are traveling, shopping or away from home, pack your lunch or pack healthy snacks and bring water. Being prepared will help to prevent unhealthy junk food eating.

Think about creating a healthy lifestyle right this very minute for yourself and remember don't wait until January 1. Do it now and you can have a head start to 2006!

New Baby Scales at WIC !



By Stephanie Whitney, State WIC Nutritionist

As a breastfeeding mother myself, there is always a concern is my baby getting enough milk. This concern is not new. Some mothers stop breastfeeding for this very reason because they don't have a way to find out how much nutrition their child is receiving from the breast.

In order to help relieve this concern, WIC clinics now have a Baby-Weigh Scale® in each office. With your WIC nutritionist, you can have your baby weighed on the scale and then weighed again after breastfeeding. This is a great way to ensure that your baby is getting enough milk so you can continue to breastfeed without worry. I love it, and I am so glad that WIC is now able to assist mothers with this very important concern.

Ask your WIC nutritionist today about the BabyWeigh® scale!

