Perinatal Food Group Guide

Food group	Minimum Servings Per Day	Portion Sizes	What does this do?
Vegetables	3 Servings 1 serving = • 1 cup vegetable juice	One fist = 1 cup	For Baby: Vitamin A helps the heart, lungs, kidneys, eyes, and bones grow healthy and strong. It also boosts the immune system.
Eat more vegetables. Use fresh, frozen or low sodium canned vegetables. Avoid French fries.	 2 cups raw leafy greens 1 cup raw or cooked vegetables 	Two fists = 2 cups	For Mom: Vitamin A supports good vision and helps with postpartum healing.
Meats and Beans	6-7 Servings 1 serving = • 1 egg	Palm = 3 ounces	For Baby: Iron and zinc help grow muscles, bone, skin, and blood. B-vitamins help develop the nervous system.
Choose healthy protein. Eat vegetable protein daily. Avoid bacon, hot dogs and bologna.	 1 tbsp peanut butter 1 oz. meat, poultry or fish ¹/₄ cup cooked dry beans, lentils or peas 	Thumb = 1 Tablespoon	For Mom: Protein keeps mom lean and regulates blood sugar to prevent gestational diabetes. Protein also helps make red blood cells and strengthens the placenta.
Grains	6 Servings in 1 st Trimester 8 Servings in 2 nd & 3 rd Trimester & While Breastfeeding	One fist = 1 cup	For Baby: Magnesium works with calcium to build strong teeth & bones.
Eat mostly whole grains like brown rice. Limit bread, noodles and rice that are white.	 serving= 1 cup of cereal ¹/₂ cup of cooked pasta, rice or cereal 1 slice whole wheat bread or ¹/₂ a bagel 	Handful = $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Flat Hand = 1 slice	For Mom: Carbohydrates are the main form of energy the body uses. Fiber helps to prevent constipation.

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Fruit	2 Servings 1 serving =	E Star	For Baby: Folate helps prevent birth defects, low birth weight, and premature birth.
Add color with fruit. Make most choices fruit, not juice	 1 cup fresh fruit ¹/₂ cup dried fruit 1 cup unsweetened frozen or canned fruit 	One fist = 1 cup	For Mom: Potassium in fruits helps lower blood pressure. Vitamin C helps boost immune system. Folate prevents anemia by keeping iron in the blood.
Dairy	3 Servings for women 4 Servings for teens	Pointer finger = $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces	For Baby: Calcium helps build strong bones, teeth, & muscles. It also helps keep a strong, regular heartbeat & helps with blood clotting.
Enjoy calcium-rich foods. Choose pasteurized nonfat or lowfat milk, yogurt, and cheese.	 serving = 1 cup of milk 1 ¹/₂ oz. of cheese 1 cup plain yogurt 1 cup of soy milk with calcium 	One fist = 1 cup	For Mom: Calcium helps keep bones, teeth, & muscles strong. It also helps with any back or stomach pains or cramping.