

YOUTH

HEALTH BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2023

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

WHY SHOULD I GO TO THE DOCTOR WHEN I AM NOT SICK?



It is important to go to the doctor when you are sick. But there are also reasons to visit the doctor when you are well. Having a doctor or nurse check for signs of being sick before you start to feel bad is important. This allows a doctor to find problems earlier when they are easier to fix. You can get or stay healthy faster.

If you play sports, you may need to get a sport's physical. A sports physical is a visit to the doctor to make sure it is safe to play the sport you want to play. Sports physicals and well visits to the doctor are not just for kids. Grown-ups should also go to the doctor once a year for a well exam to stay healthy.

A well-child exam or sports physical usually include several different parts: a paper to fill out ahead of time, questions from a nurse or doctor, and a physical exam. You should fill out any paper

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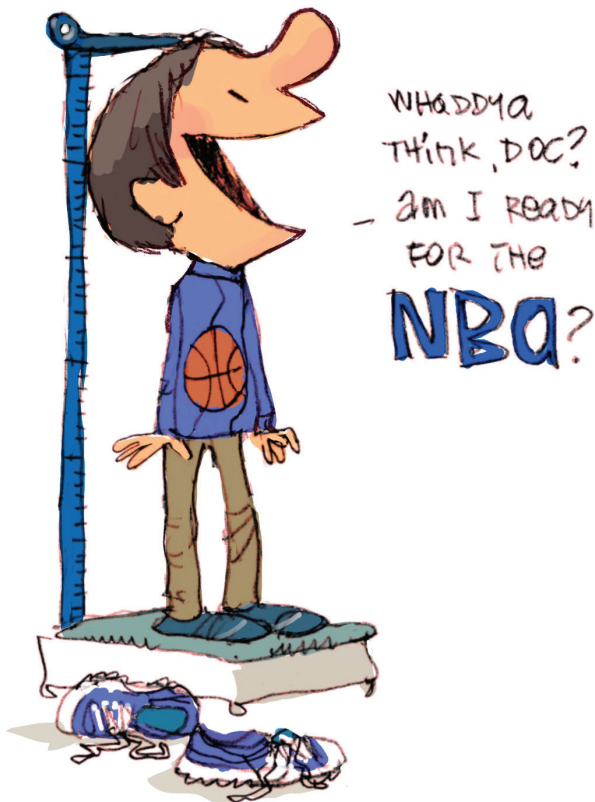
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with your parent or guardian, to make sure you have the right answers. As you get older, you need to know the answers to questions about your medical history, so this is a great way to learn.

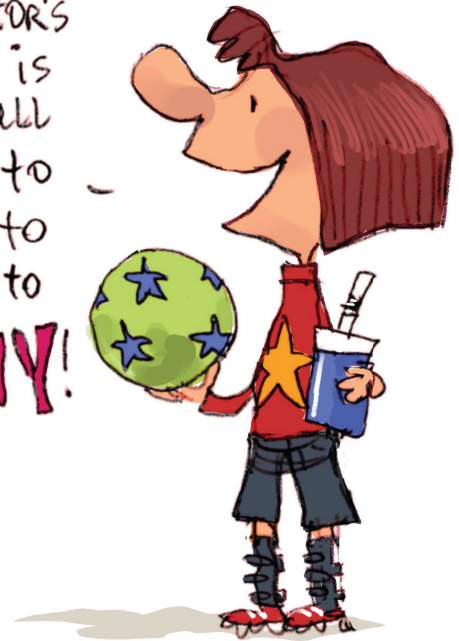
Your medical history includes questions about:

- any medical problems, illnesses, and injuries you had when you were younger
- medicines or vitamins you take
- medical problems that run in your family

During the physical exam, a nurse or doctor will measure how tall you are, check how much you weigh, check your blood pressure, listen to your heart and lungs, and look at your muscles, bones, and joints. You may also take a vision, hearing, or breathing screening. These screenings do not hurt. It is important that



a doctor's visit is a small price to pay to get to PLAY!



you pay attention and follow directions so the screening shows how well your body is working.

This visit is also your chance to ask questions about your growing body and how you can help stay healthy. Before your visit, try writing any questions down that you have for the doctor, and then write down the doctor's answer. You may feel silly at first, but you will remember more and you will make the most out of your visit.

Remember, doctors and health-care visits are good for you, even when you are not sick. They may not be the most fun, but well visits and physicals are an important part of keeping your body on track and healthy.

REFERENCE:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/sports-physicals.html#catfit>

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN

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