

Children aren't concerned about osteoporosis.

But their parents should be.



As a physician, you know that if kids eat three daily servings of dairy, it can help reduce their risk of osteoporosis years from now. But some parents don't know; so you can help by informing them that dairy foods supply key nutrients necessary for better bone health.

The U.S. Surgeon General's report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis recognizes the role that nutrients in dairy foods – including calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, protein, and vitamin D – play in helping to build and protect bones.

In fact, a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics states that eating calcium-rich foods such as milk, cheese and yogurt during childhood and adolescence will help build strong bones, which may reduce the risk of fractures and osteoporosis later in life.

Helping patients can be easy. Just remind them to get three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk, cheese or yogurt every day, as recommended by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Or, direct them to MyPyramid.gov to learn more.

And remind parents that it's never too late for them to take care of their own bone health too. By getting three daily servings of dairy and participating in weight-bearing exercise, adults can help protect their bones while setting a good example for their children. To learn more, visit nationaldairycouncil.org.

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