









Soon, I was walking on my hands, doing cartwheels, and learning how to swim. As I got older, I delivered newspapers and saved enough money to buy a balance beam and a unicycle (a bicycle with one wheel like you see in the circus). I practiced for two summers before I could even ride it!























Draw a picture of yourself doing your favorite type of exercise. What do you really, really want?

The "Key to Fitness" is another new friend you will meet in the Adventures in Oz with Cheryl[™]video series. He has many wonderful lessons for us along the way. Here are some tips on how you can be fit as a family:

1. Set aside a regular time to make sure kids get 15-minutes of exercise or play three times per week. Make sure the activities are non-competitive and focus on being fun, trying one's best, learning new skills, and practicing each new skill until it is mastered.

2. Work together on basic motor skills such as jumping, throwing, catching, running, kicking, and skipping. Incorporate movements that increase flexibility, balance, strength, and endurance.

3. Allow each child to develop at his or her own pace. Everyone will learn some skills more easily than others. Set simple goals that children can achieve with some practice, and then point out how good it feels to achieve them. Always encourage and support your children with a "can do" spirit to help foster self-esteem.

4. Limit TV viewing to only one hour per day. Try being active during the 2-minute commercial breaks. Choose a different activity for each commercial break like stretching or running in place. After one hour of TV, turn it off and do another type of activity.

5. Plan weekends, family vacations, and gatherings that encourage the family to participate in a variety of activities like bowling, swimming, hiking, canoeing, cycling, or camping. Make household chores fun by added fitness movements. For example, have kids jump on one foot to pick up clothes or toys in their rooms, or when making their beds.

6. Get involved in organized sports as a family through your local community center, parks department, church, or school. These organizations often offer activities such as soccer, gymnastics, swimming, and basketball. Organized sports also provide a way to make new friends, and foster personal pride by being part of a team.

7. Use family fitness activities as a reward for good behavior instead of sweets. For example, when your child performs well in school or around the house, reward him or her with a trip to the park for 30-minutes of play, instead of candy.

8. Eat three balanced meals per day comprised of 50% carbohydrates, 30% fat, and 20% protein. Eat at home as often as possible so you can plan healthy meals for your family. Never skip breakfast, never eat more than you need to feel satisfied, and never go grocery shopping hungry.

9. Limit fast food dinners and pack healthy lunches to go. Choose low fat, low calorie snacks in between meals, like fruits and vegetables, which have the highest nutritional value with the lowest calories. Don't forget to drink water- at least eight glasses per day.

10. Get a regular check-up from your doctor before starting an exercise program, especially if you are inactive or over 40 years old. If your child has a weight problem, make sure your child also sees a doctor before beginning any exercise regimen.

