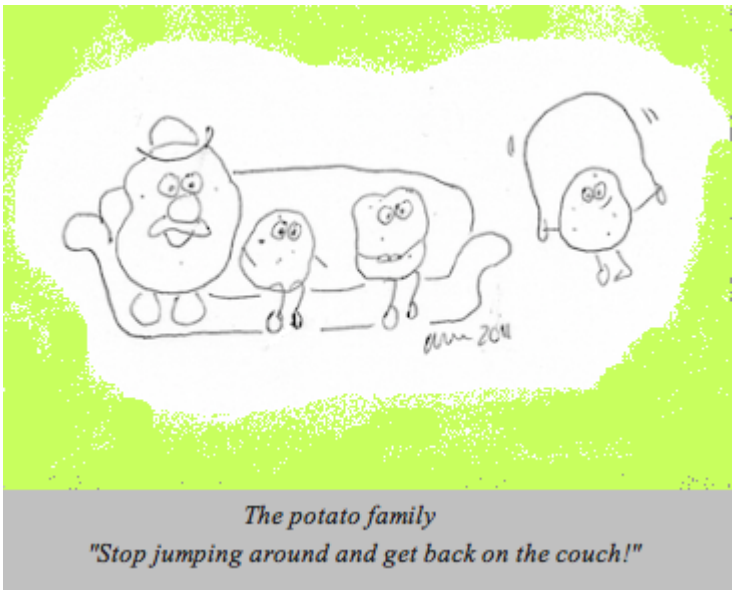
Quick exercises for kids and teens



Physical therapist Dr. Deborah Stack brings us quick exercises for kids and teens – Dr. Lai and Kardos

After six months of COVID; yes, it really has been that long already, your family has probably found some favorite outdoor hiking spots or bike routes. But what can you do when it's too cold or wet outside? How can you combat literally HOURS of kids sitting at computers especially if they only have 30-45 minutes until their next class? Here are quick exercises for kids and teens and a table of caloric expenditure for common activities.

Schedule active movement breaks into their day. Take advantage of that lunch and recess "break" and be an example yourself.

Here are some short burst ideas:

- Have a 15-minute dance party
- Use your body to make all the letters of the alphabet
- Shadow box to some music
- Dust off the treadmill or stationary bike in the

basement
- Play ping-pong
- Do a few chores (carrying laundry baskets up and down is great exercise)
- Jump rope
- Jog in place
- Do jumping jacks
- Pull out some “little kid games” such as hopscotch or hulahoop
- Let each child in your house choose an activity for everyone to try
- Do a family yoga video
- Walk or “run” stairs…kids can try to beat their prior score for a minute of stairs
- Take walking/wheeling/even wheelbarrow laps around the house
- Stretch out calves, quadriceps, arms and back…see ergonomics post for counteracting all the sitting

Don’t forget the teenagers; they still need activity too especially if their teams are not practicing or competing. Staff from the Mayo Clinic recommend kids ages 6-17 should have one hour of moderate exercise each day. Exercise can help improve mood (through the release of endorphins), improve sleep and therefore attention (critical with all the online learning), and improve cardiovascular endurance. Here are some numbers to get the kids moving:

All activities are based on 20 minutes and a teen who weighs 110 pounds. The number of calories burned depends on weight. If your child weighs more, he will burn a few more calories, if he weighs less, he’ll burn a few less. Below the table are links to some free and quick calorie calculators on the web so your kids can check it out for themselves. For those attached to their phones, there are web apps too.

ACTIVITY	CALORIES USED
Shooting Basketballs	75
Pickup Basketball game/practice	100
Biking on stationary bike	116
Dancing	75
Hopscotch	67
Ice Skating	116
Jogging in place	133
Juggling	67
Jumping Rope	166
Ping Pong	67
Rock Climbing	183
Running at 5 mph	133
Sledding	116
Treadmill at 4 mph	67
Vacuuming	58

caloriesperhour

Try these activity calculators:

http://www.caloriecontrol.org/healthy-weight-tool-kit/lighten-up-and-get-moving

https://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/healthtool-exercise-calculator

Keep ’em moving- you’ll have more fit, better rested, and happier kids!

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