

Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering: Unit 2-2.1.1 - Nutrition at different life stages & special dietary needs



Nutrition at different life-stages

Adults:

- **Early** – Growth in regard to height of the body continues to develop until 21 years of age. Therefore, all micro-nutrients and macro-nutrients especially carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins, calcium and iron are needed for strength, to avoid diseases and to maintain being healthy.
- **Middle** – The metabolic rate starts to slow down at this stage, and it is very easy to gain weight if the energy intake is unbalanced and there isn't enough physical activity.
- **Elderly** – The body's systems start to slow down with age and a risk of blood pressure can increase as well as decrease in appetite, vision and long-term memory. Because of this, it is essential to keep the body strong and free from disease by continuing to eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Children:

- **Babies** – All nutrients are essential and important in babies, especially protein as growth and development of the body is very quick at this stage. Vitamins and minerals are also important. You should try to limit the amount of salt and free sugars in the diet.
- **Toddlers** – All nutrients remain very important in the diet at this stage as growth remains. A variety of foods are needed for toddlers to have all the micro-nutrients and macro-nutrients the body needs to develop.
- **Teenagers** – The body grows at a fast pace at different times at this stage as the body develops from a child to an adult, therefore all nutrients are essential within proportions. Girls start their menstruation which can sometimes lead to anaemia due to not having enough iron in the body.

Special Dietary needs

Different energy requirements based on:

- Lifestyles / Occupation / Age / Activity level
The amount of energy the body needs is determined with each of the above factors e.g. active lifestyle or physical activity level would need more energy compared to a person being sedentary.

Medical conditions:

- **Allergens** – Examples of food allergies include milk, eggs, nuts and seafood.
- **Lactose intolerance** – Unable to digest lactose which is mainly found in milk and dairy products.
- **Gluten intolerance** – Follows a gluten free diet and eats alternatives to food containing wheat, barley and rye.
- **Diabetes (Type 2)** – High level of glucose in the blood, therefore changes include reducing the amount of fat, salt and sugar in the diet.
- **Cardiovascular disorder** – Needing a balanced, healthy diet with low levels of salt, sugar and fat.
- **Iron deficiency** – Needing to eat more dark green leafy vegetables, fortified cereals and dried fruit.

Dietary requirements:

- **Religious beliefs** – Different religions have different dietary requirements.
- **Vegetarian** – Avoids eating meats and fish but does eat dairy products and protein alternatives such as quorn and tofu.
- **Vegan** – Avoids all animal foods and products but can eat all plant-based foods and protein alternatives such as tofu and tempeh.
- **Pescatarian** – Follows a vegetarian diet but does eat fish products and seafood.