

Boosting gut health improves digestion, enhances immunity, and supports better overall physical and mental health. A balanced diet and lifestyle are key to maintaining a healthy gut microbiome. Here are five tips to help improve your gut health:

- 1. **Add Variety.** Eating a variety of foods from different food groups helps to diversify the healthy bacteria in your gut. Make sure to eat a rainbow of colors by adding different fruits and vegetables and add more whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds to your diet.
- 2. **Eat More Probiotics.** Probiotics are a bacteria that can enhance gut health. They can be found in fermented foods, such as yogurt, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and kombucha.
- 3. **Add More Prebiotics.** Prebiotics are a type of fiber that enhance gut health by promoting the growth and activity of beneficial bacteria. Good sources: apples, bananas, berries, onions, asparagus, whole grains, chickpeas, flaxseeds, and chia seeds.
- 4. **Stay Hydrated.** Drinking plenty of water can help maintain a healthy mucosal lining in the intestines and support the balance of beneficial bacteria. Aim for at least 8 glasses of water a day, more if you are active or live in a hot climate.
- 5. **Increase Fiber-Rich Foods.** Fiber benefits include proper digestion and absorption of nutrients. Add more fiber-rich foods to your diet like vegetables, legumes, fruits, whole grain breads and cereals, nuts, and seeds.



What to Look for in a Healthy Yogurt

The yogurt aisle can be overwhelming with so many different choices and not all yogurts are created equal. Here are some tips for selecting the best one:

- Live and Active Cultures Look for labels that mention "live and active cultures" or specific probiotic strains like Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium.
- Low Added Sugars Choose plain or low-sugar options and sweeten naturally with fresh fruit or a small amount of honey or maple syrup.
- **High Protein Content** Greek yogurt is a great option as it typically contains more protein than regular yogurt.
- Non-Dairy Alternatives If you choose non-dairy alternatives, ensure that they are fortified with calcium and vitamin D, contain live cultures, and are low in added sugars.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
TRIO Community Meals Nourishment through compassionate care.		Each Meal is Served with 1/2 Pint of 2% Milk		1 Special Home Style Meatloaf Brown Gravy Whipped Potatoes Whole Kernel Corn Wheat Bread Fresh Fruit
	5	6	7	8
Chicken & Sausage Gumbo w/Rice Whipped Sweet Potatoes Okra & Tomatoes Saltine Crackers Fresh Fruit	White Beans/Sausage Steamed Rice Mixed Greens Cornbread Fudge Round Orange Juice	BBQ Meatballs Green Peas California Vegetables Wheat Bread Oatmeal Crème	Parmesan Chicken Garlic Potatoes Green Beans Wheat Bread Fresh Fruit	Hamburger Baked Beans Chuckwagon Corn Wheat Hamburger Bur Fresh Fruit
11	12	13	14	15
Sliced Ham with Honey Glaze Ranch Potatoes Peas & Carrots Wheat Bread Fig Bar	Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya Whole Kernel Corn Green Beans/Red Pepper Wheat Bread Oatmeal Creme	Hamburger Potato Wedges Baked Beans Hamburger Bun Fresh Fruit	Ham & Black-eyed Peas Steamed Rice Cabbage Cornbread Fresh Fruit Apple Juice	Smothered Chicken Whipped Potatoes California Vegetables Wheat Bread Fudge Round
18	19	20	21	22
Beef with Burgundy Sauce Whipped Potatoes Carrots Wheat Bread Strawberry Craisins	Chicken Alfredo Mixed Vegetables Brussels Sprouts Wheat Bread Chocolate Pudding	Sausage/Red Beans Brown Rice Turnip Greens Cornbread Fresh Fruit Apple Juice	Turkey Breast Brown Gravy Whipped Potatoes Broccoli/Cauliflower Wheat Bread (2) Star Crunch	Frito Chili Pie with Cheese Chuckwagon Corn Green Peas Corn Chips Raisin Crème
25	26	27	28	29
Turkey Chili Cheesy Rice Green Peas Wheat Bread Fresh Fruit Fruit & Grain Bar	Shepherd's Pie California Vegetables Green Beans Wheat Bread Fudge Round	Baked Chicken Breast Citrus Mojo Sauce Chantilly Potatoes Carrots Wheat Bread Birthday Cake Cookie	Sausage/Pinto Beans Brown Rice Cabbage Cornbread Raisin Crème Cookie Fruit Blend Juice	BBQ Pork Riblet Ranch Beans Chuckwagon Corn Hamburger Bun Fresh Fruit