

0-4 years

CANADIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE EARLY YEARS (0-4 YEARS):

An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep

PREAMBLE

These Guidelines are relevant to all apparently healthy infants (less than 1 year), toddlers (1-2 years), and preschoolers (3-4 years), irrespective of gender, cultural background, or the socio-economic status of the family. These Guidelines may be appropriate for young children with a disability or medical condition; however, a health professional should be consulted for additional guidance.

To encourage healthy growth and development, young children should receive support from their parents and caregivers that allows for an active lifestyle with a daily balance of physical activities, sedentary behaviours, and sleep. Young children should participate in a range of developmentally appropriate, enjoyable, and safe play-based and organized physical activities in a variety of environments (e.g., home/child care/school/community; indoors/outdoors; land/water; summer/winter), both independently as well as together with adults and other children. For infants, supervised activities could include tummy time, reaching and grasping, pushing and pulling, and crawling. The quality of sedentary behaviour matters; for example, interactive non-screen-based behaviours (e.g., reading, storytelling, singing, puzzles) are encouraged. Developing healthy sleep hygiene in the early years is important; this includes having a calming bedtime routine with consistent bedtimes and wake-up times, avoiding screen time before sleep, and keeping screens out of the bedroom.

Following these Guidelines through the early years is associated with better growth, cardiorespiratory and musculoskeletal fitness, cognitive development, psychosocial health/emotional regulation, motor development, body composition, quality of life/well-being, as well as reduced injuries. The benefits of following these Guidelines exceed potential harms.

For those not currently meeting these 24-Hour Movement Guidelines, a progressive adjustment toward them is recommended. Adhering to these Guidelines may be challenging at times; resources are available for assistance at www.BuildYourBestDay.com/EarlyYears.

These Guidelines were informed by the best available evidence, expert consensus, stakeholder consultation, and consideration of values and preferences, applicability, feasibility, and equity. The specific Guidelines and more details on the background research, their interpretation, guidance on how to achieve them, and recommendations for further research and surveillance are available at www.csep.ca/guidelines.

Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for the Early Years (0-4 years)

For healthy growth and development, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers should achieve the recommended balance of physical activity, high-quality sedentary behaviour, and sufficient sleep.

A healthy 24 hours includes:



MOVE



SLEEP



SIT

MOVE

SLEEP

SIT

INFANTS (LESS THAN 1 YEAR)

Being physically active several times in a variety of ways, particularly through interactive floor-based play—more is better. For those not yet mobile, this includes at least 30 minutes of tummy time spread throughout the day while awake.

14 to 17 hours (for those aged 0-3 months) or 12 to 16 hours (for those aged 4-11 months) of good-quality sleep, including naps.

Not being restrained for more than 1 hour at a time (e.g., in a stroller or high chair). Screen time is not recommended. When sedentary, engaging in pursuits such as reading and storytelling with a caregiver is encouraged.

TODDLERS (1-2 YEARS)

At least 180 minutes spent in a variety of physical activities at any intensity, including energetic play, spread throughout the day—more is better.

11 to 14 hours of good-quality sleep, including naps, with consistent bedtimes and wake-up times.

Not being restrained for more than 1 hour at a time (e.g., in a stroller or high chair) or sitting for extended periods. For those younger than 2 years, sedentary screen time is not recommended. For those aged 2 years, sedentary screen time should be no more than 1 hour—less is better. When sedentary, engaging in pursuits such as reading and storytelling with a caregiver is encouraged.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS)

At least 180 minutes spent in a variety of physical activities spread throughout the day, of which at least 60 minutes is energetic play—more is better.

10 to 13 hours of good-quality sleep, which may include a nap, with consistent bedtimes and wake-up times.

Not being restrained for more than 1 hour at a time (e.g., in a stroller or car seat) or sitting for extended periods. Sedentary screen time should be no more than 1 hour—less is better. When sedentary, engaging in pursuits such as reading and storytelling with a caregiver is encouraged.

Replacing time restrained or sedentary screen time with additional energetic play, and trading indoor for outdoor time, while preserving sufficient sleep, can provide greater health benefits.

CANADIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep

PREAMBLE

These guidelines are relevant to apparently healthy children and youth (aged 5–17 years) irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, or the socio-economic status of the family. Children and youth are encouraged to live an active lifestyle with a daily balance of sleep, sedentary behaviours, and physical activities that supports their healthy development.

Children and youth should practice healthy sleep hygiene (habits and practices that are conducive to sleeping well), limit sedentary behaviours (especially screen time), and participate in a range of physical activities in a variety of environments (e.g., home/school/community; indoors/outdoors; land/water; summer/winter) and contexts (e.g., play, recreation, sport, active transportation, hobbies, and chores).

For those not currently meeting these 24-hour movement guidelines, a progressive adjustment toward them is recommended. Following these guidelines is associated with better body composition, cardiorespiratory and musculoskeletal fitness, academic achievement and cognition, emotional regulation, pro-social behaviours, cardiovascular and metabolic health, and overall quality of life. The benefits of following these guidelines far exceed potential risks.

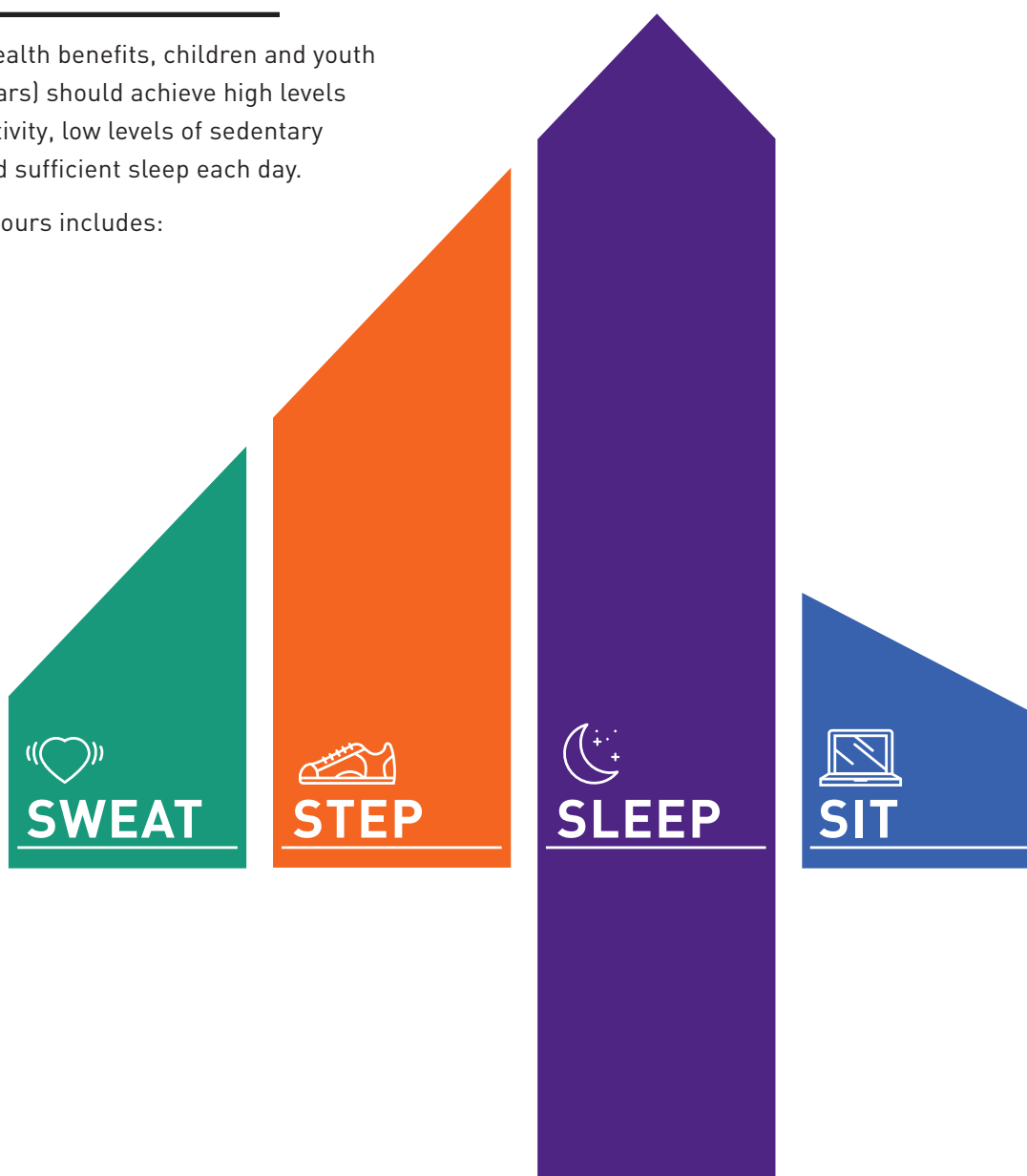
These guidelines may be appropriate for children and youth with a disability or medical condition; however, a health professional should be consulted for additional guidance.

The specific guidelines and more details on the background research informing them, their interpretation, guidance on how to achieve them, and recommendations for research and surveillance are available at www.csep.ca/guidelines.

GUIDELINES

For optimal health benefits, children and youth (aged 5–17 years) should achieve high levels of physical activity, low levels of sedentary behaviour, and sufficient sleep each day.

A healthy 24 hours includes:



SWEAT

MODERATE TO VIGOROUS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

An accumulation of at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity involving a variety of aerobic activities. Vigorous physical activities, and muscle and bone strengthening activities should each be incorporated at least 3 days per week;

STEP

LIGHT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Several hours of a variety of structured and unstructured light physical activities;

SLEEP

SLEEP

Uninterrupted 9 to 11 hours of sleep per night for those aged 5–13 years and 8 to 10 hours per night for those aged 14–17 years, with consistent bed and wake-up times;

SIT

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR

No more than 2 hours per day of recreational screen time; Limited sitting for extended periods.

Preserving sufficient sleep, trading indoor time for outdoor time, and replacing sedentary behaviours and light physical activity with additional moderate to vigorous physical activity can provide greater health benefits.

18-64 years

CANADIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES

FOR ADULTS AGED 18-64 YEARS:

An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep

PREAMBLE

This document is intended for use by policy makers, health professionals, and researchers, and it may be useful to interested members of the public.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines are relevant to adults (aged 18-64 years), irrespective of gender, cultural background, or socio-economic status. These Guidelines may not be appropriate for adults aged 18-64 years who are pregnant or persons living with a disability or a medical condition; these individuals should consider consulting the *Get Active Questionnaire*, disability/condition-specific recommendations, or a health professional for guidance.

Adults aged 18-64 years should participate in a range of physical activities (e.g., weight bearing/non-weight bearing, sport and recreation) in a variety of environments (e.g., home/work/community; indoors/outdoors; land/water) and contexts (e.g., leisure, transportation, occupation, household) across all seasons. Adults aged 18-64 years should limit long periods of sedentary behaviours and should practice healthy sleep hygiene (routines, behaviours, and environments conducive to sleeping well).

Following the 24-Hour Movement Guidelines is associated with these health benefits:

- a lower risk of mortality, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, several cancers, anxiety, depression, dementia, weight gain, adverse blood lipid profile; and
- improved bone health, cognition, quality of life and physical function.

The benefits of following these Guidelines far exceed potential harms. Following these Guidelines may be challenging at times; progressing towards any of the Guideline targets will result in some health benefits.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines were informed by the best available evidence, expert consensus, stakeholder consultation, and consideration of values and preferences, applicability, feasibility, and equity. A glossary and more details on the Guidelines, the background research, their interpretation, guidance on how to achieve them, and recommendations for further research and surveillance are available at <https://csep.ca/guidelines>.

For health benefits, adults aged 18-64 years should be physically active each day, minimize sedentary behaviour, and achieve sufficient sleep.

A healthy 24 hours includes:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Performing a variety of types and intensities of physical activity, which includes:



- **Moderate to vigorous aerobic physical activities** such that there is an accumulation of at least 150 minutes per week
- Muscle strengthening activities using major muscle groups at least twice a week



- Several hours of **light physical activities**, including standing

SLEEP



Getting 7 to 9 hours of good-quality sleep on a regular basis, with consistent bed and wake-up times

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR



Limiting sedentary time to 8 hours or less, which includes:

- No more than 3 hours of recreational screen time
- Breaking up long periods of sitting as often as possible



Replacing sedentary behaviour with additional physical activity and trading light physical activity for more moderate to vigorous physical activity, while preserving sufficient sleep, can provide greater health benefits.



Progressing towards any of these targets will result in some health benefits.

65 years or older

CANADIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES

FOR ADULTS 65 YEARS OR OLDER:

An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep

PREAMBLE

This document is intended for use by policy makers, health professionals, and researchers, and it may be useful to interested members of the public.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines are relevant to adults aged 65 years or older, irrespective of gender, cultural background, or socio-economic status. These Guidelines may not be appropriate for adults aged 65 years or older living with a disability or a medical condition; these individuals should consider consulting the *Get Active Questionnaire*, disability/condition-specific recommendations, or a health professional for guidance.

Adults aged 65 years or older should participate in a range of physical activities (e.g., weight bearing/non-weight bearing, sport and recreation) in a variety of environments (e.g., home/work/community; indoors/outdoors; land/water) and contexts (e.g., leisure, transportation, occupation, household) across all seasons. Adults aged 65 years or older should limit long periods sedentary behaviours and should practice healthy sleep hygiene (routines, behaviours, and environments conducive to sleeping well).

Following the 24-Hour Movement Guidelines is associated with these health benefits:

- a lower risk of mortality, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, several cancers, anxiety, depression, dementia, weight gain, adverse blood lipid profile, falls and fall-related injuries; and
- improved bone health, cognition, quality of life and physical function.

The benefits of following these Guidelines far exceed potential harms. Following these Guidelines may be challenging at times; progressing towards any of the Guideline targets will result in some health benefits.

These 24-Hour Movement Guidelines were informed by the best available evidence, expert consensus, stakeholder consultation, and consideration of values and preferences, applicability, feasibility, and equity. A glossary and more details on the Guidelines, the background research, their interpretation, guidance on how to achieve them, and recommendations for further research and surveillance are available at <https://csep.ca/guidelines>.

For health benefits, adults aged 65 years or older should be physically active each day, minimize sedentary behaviour, and achieve sufficient sleep.

A healthy 24 hours includes:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Performing a variety of types and intensities of physical activity, which includes:



- **Moderate to vigorous aerobic physical activities** such that there is an accumulation of at least 150 minutes per week
- Muscle strengthening activities using major muscle groups at least twice a week
- Physical activities that challenge balance



- Several hours of **light physical activities**, including standing

SLEEP



Getting 7 to 8 hours of good-quality sleep on a regular basis, with consistent bed and wake-up times

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR



Limiting sedentary time to 8 hours or less, which includes:

- No more than 3 hours of recreational screen time
- Breaking up long periods of sitting as often as possible



Replacing sedentary behaviour with additional physical activity and trading light physical activity for more moderate to vigorous physical activity, while preserving sufficient sleep, can provide greater health benefits.



Progressing towards any of these targets will result in some health benefits.