

CANADA'S

# Physical Activity Guide

to Healthy Active Living

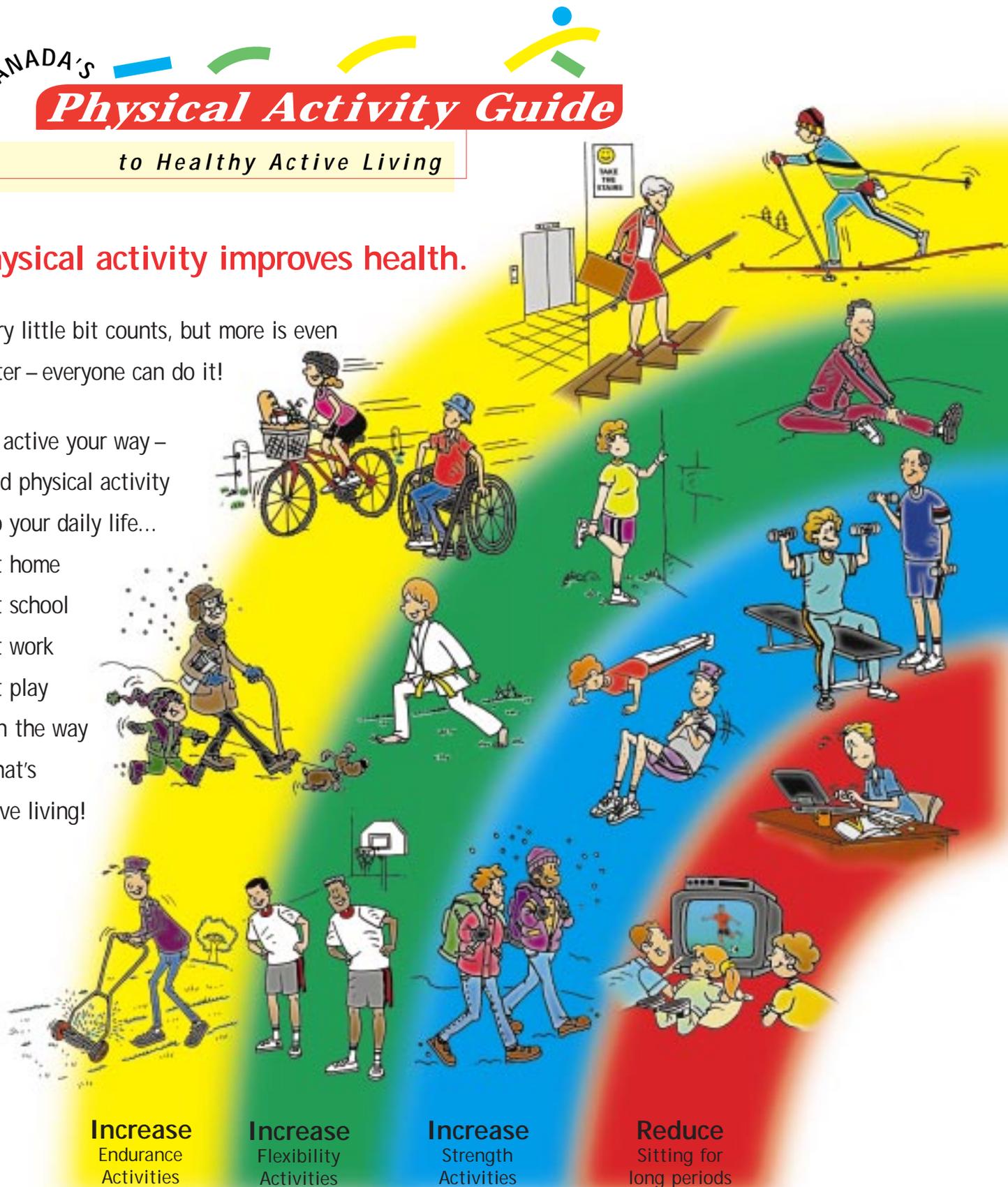
## Physical activity improves health.

Every little bit counts, but more is even better – everyone can do it!

Get active your way – build physical activity into your daily life...

- at home
- at school
- at work
- at play
- on the way

...that's active living!



**Increase**  
Endurance  
Activities

**Increase**  
Flexibility  
Activities

**Increase**  
Strength  
Activities

**Reduce**  
Sitting for  
long periods



Health  
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Canadian Society for  
Exercise Physiology

Choose a variety of activities from these three groups:

### Endurance

4-7 days a week

Continuous activities for your heart, lungs and circulatory system.

### Flexibility

4-7 days a week

Gentle reaching, bending and stretching activities to keep your muscles relaxed and joints mobile.

### Strength

2-4 days a week

Activities against resistance to strengthen muscles and bones and improve posture.

Starting slowly is very safe for most people. Not sure? Consult your health professional.

For a copy of the *Guide Handbook* and more information: 1-888-334-9769, or [www.paguide.com](http://www.paguide.com)

Eating well is also important. Follow *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating* to make wise food choices.

## Get Active Your Way, Every Day—For Life!

Scientists say accumulate 60 minutes of physical activity every day to stay healthy or improve your health. As you progress to moderate activities you can cut down to 30 minutes, 4 days a week. Add-up your activities in periods of at least 10 minutes each. Start slowly... and build up.

Time needed depends on effort				
Very Light Effort	Light Effort <i>60 minutes</i>	Moderate Effort <i>30-60 minutes</i>	Vigorous Effort <i>20-30 minutes</i>	Maximum Effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strolling</li> <li>• Dusting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light walking</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Easy gardening</li> <li>• Stretching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brisk walking</li> <li>• Biking</li> <li>• Raking leaves</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Dancing</li> <li>• Water aerobics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerobics</li> <li>• Jogging</li> <li>• Hockey</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Fast swimming</li> <li>• Fast dancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sprinting</li> <li>• Racing</li> </ul>
Range needed to stay healthy				

### You Can Do It – Getting started is easier than you think

Physical activity doesn't have to be very hard. Build physical activities into your daily routine.

- Walk whenever you can – get off the bus early, use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Reduce inactivity for long periods, like watching TV.
- Get up from the couch and stretch and bend for a few minutes every hour.
- Play actively with your kids.
- Choose to walk, wheel or cycle for short trips.
- Start with a 10 minute walk – gradually increase the time.
- Find out about walking and cycling paths nearby and use them.
- Observe a physical activity class to see if you want to try it.
- Try one class to start – you don't have to make a long-term commitment.
- Do the activities you are doing now, more often.

### Benefits of regular activity:

- better health
- improved fitness
- better posture and balance
- better self-esteem
- weight control
- stronger muscles and bones
- feeling more energetic
- relaxation and reduced stress
- continued independent living in later life

### Health risks of inactivity:

- premature death
- heart disease
- obesity
- high blood pressure
- adult-onset diabetes
- osteoporosis
- stroke
- depression
- colon cancer

