# EGGS: A FUNDAMENTAL FOOD FOR PRENATAL & INFANT HEALTH

# EGGS ARE A NUTRIENT-RICH CHOICE FOR MOM & BABY

The 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans call out nutrient-dense eggs as a fundamental first food for babies and as an important food for pregnant and lactating women. Eggs offer eight essential nutrients for maternal and infant health like high-quality protein, choline, iodine, vitamin D, plus the carotenoids lutein and zeaxanthin.

# FROM PREGNANCY TO BIRTH THROUGH 24 MONTHS OF LIFE

90% of a child's brain growth occurs before kindergarten, meaning what mom eats during pregnancy and provides to her child during those first 24 months after birth are crucial.

Approximately 90% of Americans including pregnant women don't consume enough choline, an essential nutrient that plays a role in fetal brain development and reduces risk for neural tube defects.

Eggs are a simple food-forward solution to help moms and babies meet their daily choline needs, with one large egg meeting 25% of a pregnant woman's daily choline needs and 100% of an infant's choline needs.

#### REFERENCES:

- 1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. 9th Edition. December 2020.
- 2. Brown, T.T. and T.L. Jerigan, *Brain Development During the Preschool Years*. Neruopsychol Rev, 2012. 22(4): p. 313-33
- 3. Wallace, T.C. and V.L. Fulgoni, 3rd, Assessment of Total Choline Intakes in the United States. J Am Coll Nutr, 2016. 35(2): p. 108-12



# **EGGS FOR PRENATAL & INFANT HEALTH**

# EGGSCELLENT WAYS TO #PUTANEGGONIT

No time? No problem! These simple recipes are great for adults and littles alike!

### **CHICKEN & VEGETABLE RICE**

1 cup cooked brown rice - 1 Tbsp olive oil - 2 cups diced sweet potato - 2 cups peas/carrots - 2 cups cooked chicken - 4 large eggs

In a large skillet over medium heat, add oil. Cook sweet potato until tender, about 8 minutes. Add peas, carrots, chicken and rice, cook remaining 3 minutes. Place in a bowl. In the same skillet, spray with nonstick spray then pour in the eggs. Cook until eggs are 145°F (or cooked through). Add rice mixture back into the skillet with the eggs, and fold to combine. Serve warm.





### **PESTO EGG BAKE**

12 large eggs - 1/2 tsp salt - 1/2 tsp pepper - 1/2 cup basil pesto

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare a 9-inch pie plate with nonstick cooking spray. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, salt and pepper. Pour into prepared pan. Use a spoon to drop pesto into eggs and use a fork to swirl pesto into eggs. Bake 30-35 minutes, until egg starts to pull away from the edges of the pan and center is set. Allow to cool slightly, then cut into slices. For babies, cut into strips.





## **AVOCADO EGG TOAST**

1 large avocado - 4 slices whole wheat bread - 4 hard cooked eggs

For babies, place avocado and eggs in a bowl. Use a fork to mash to desired texture. Spread over bread slices. Slice into strips.

For adults, place avocado in a bowl and use a fork to mash. Spread equal amounts of avocado over bread slices. Top each bread slice with hard-cooked eggs.







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