

Eating for Health: A New System, Not Another Diet: Part One

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Eating for Health is a way of life. It reflects a relationship to food based on consciousness, gratitude, and sound science. — Dr. Ed Bauman.

Abstract

Eating for Health is a system, not a diet, developed by Dr. Ed Bauman as an alternative to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) dietary recommendations and other one-size-fits-all dietary approaches. It seeks to strategically develop food plans for people rather than having them eat according to a food model that has worked for some but not all people. It serves to clear up the confusion engendered by the vast array of supposedly very different popular diets. It features fresh, whole foods that align with people's needs, preferences, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, with attention paid to changes in seasons, situations, aging and health challenges. The goals of this system are to show the average person how they can obtain optimal amounts of macro-nutrients (proteins, fats and carbohydrates), micro-nutrients (vitamins and minerals) and phyto-nutrients (plant alkaloids with protective value) from food and thereby be less dependent on dietary supplements to fulfil nutritional needs for growth and repair as well as for recovery from injury and illness. Eating for Health emphasises the intrinsic pleasure of enjoying delicious whole foods on a daily basis, eaten mindfully, to nourish not only one's physical self, but also one's emotional, mental and spiritual being.

Eating for Health: philosophy

In *Eating for Health*, we embrace two powerful maxims — 'Food is the best medicine' and 'Know thyself' —and create a synergy that opens the way to wellness and service.

The *Eating for Health* model provides a map for healthful eating that draws on a wide array of traditional and modern dietary principles and practices. It aims to teach people to better understand how the chemicals, additives, processing, packaging and preparation of much of the food they have eaten has contributed to diminished health, while providing guidelines that encourage people to create and enjoy meals based upon fresh, whole foods that suit their cultures, ethnicities, budgets and preferences. Genetics, biochemistry, psychology, physiology, age and sensitivities all influence one's optimal choices of food. Clearly, one size does not fit all with nutrition or shoe selection. It never has and never will.

Proper nutrition is a major form of health investing. When a person consistently eats poor quality food, they deplete nutrient reserves in their bones, soft tissues, organs, glands, skin and hair. They wear the results of being overdrawn nutritionally — an unhealthy appearance — and feel the warning signs of ill health, which typically manifest as fatigue, pain and mood-swings.

The *Eating for Health* approach is to share current, non-biased research on the health benefits of whole foods, botanicals, nutrient supplementation, lifestyle and exercise to enable individuals to recognise that they have a great power in what they choose to eat, which will impact their energy, mood, body

composition and the quality and duration of life. Since every bite of what one eats and each sip one drinks becomes the matrix of their cells, tissues, organs, mind and body, eating a variety of fresh, whole foods on a daily basis is an essential form of self-care and preventive medicine.

Eating for Health is also founded on the principle of sustainability, both in terms of what dietary patterns will sustain individuals on a long-term basis and what food production methods will help sustain or improve the health of the planet's soils and waters. And as a holistic practice, *Eating for Health* also looks to various spiritual traditions that place great importance on mindful eating practices and social connection. It was designed to help nutrition professionals guide their clients toward the most nutritionally sound approaches for them as individuals. By eating well consistently, people learn what foods best nourish and sustain them during stressful changes that threaten health and impede recovery.

Eating for Health concepts

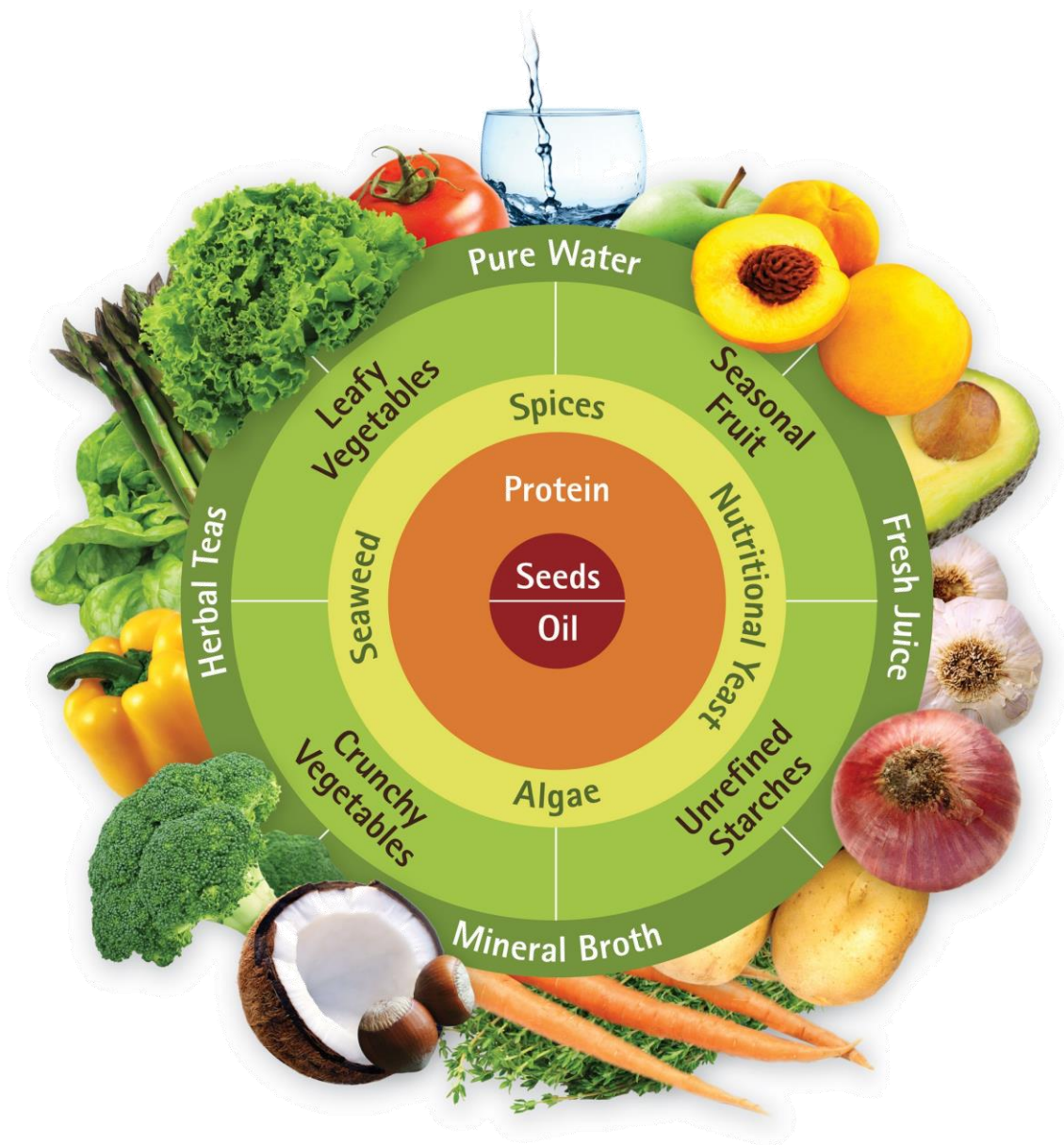
The *Eating for Health* programme promotes high quality whole foods, suited to individual needs, tastes and ethnicities. It takes into consideration biochemical individuality and lifestyle, the factors that make all of us unique beings with unique requirements. This flies in the face of many current dietary trends, which often cater to the public craving for structured diets and strict rules. Thus we see several popular trends — the Paleolithic and ancestral diets; Mediterranean, vegetarian, and vegan diets; low-carbohydrate, high protein; low-fat; and the more restrictive diets such as Gut and Psychology Syndrome (GAPS); allergen-free; and FODMAPs (omission of fermentable sugars). All of these can indeed play an important role in health promotion — for some people — and the *Eating for Health* philosophy makes room for the concepts engendered by them all, but with a flexible, non-dogmatic approach.

Nutrition bandits and heroes

Eating for Health embraces a concept coined by Dr. Bauman called *nutrition bandits*. These are the stimulants, sugars, refined grain products, conventional dairy and meat products, artificial sweeteners and hydrogenated oils in our overly processed, nutrient-depleted, industrially produced American food supply. These are the foods we find on our grocery store shelves and in chain and fast-food restaurants. Such foods are formulated in laboratories to over-stimulate our taste receptors and quite literally to addict us to processed food flavours and textures (1), so that we are no longer satisfied by the crunch of a carrot, the refreshingly sweet juice of a fresh mango or the zing of fresh garlic.

While it's easy to over-eat nutrient-poor, sugary, salty, greasy snack foods, you can enjoy *nutrition heroes*, another important *Eating for Health* concept, in abundance. These are naturally satisfying, nutrient-rich vegetables and fruits, grains, nuts and seeds, beans and legumes, and clean animal proteins and fats.

Eating for Health is a whole foods approach to nutrition developed to provide an alternative to the USDA MyPlate and other unbalanced diet approaches, ranging from those that are overly protein- or fat-heavy to those that advocate exceptionally low protein and fat. The *Eating for Health* model guides us in choosing nutrient-dense and diverse foods that are organic, local, seasonal and unprocessed, and that are suited to each individual.



Eating for Health Serving Chart

Food Group	Seeds/Oils	Protein	Leafy Vegetables	Crunchy Vegetables	Unrefined Starches	Seasonal Fruit	Booster Foods
Daily Servings	2-3	2-4	2-3	2-3	2-4	2-4	2-4
Serving Size	1 Tbs oil 2 Tbs seeds	3 oz animal 6 oz vegetable	1 cup	½ cup	½ cup whole grain, 1 medium root vegetable	½ cup or 1 medium piece	1 tsp to 1 Tbs
Examples	flax, sunflower, sesame, almonds	poultry, fish, eggs, milk, beans	salad mix, spinach, kale	broccoli, string beans, onions, celery	grains, bread, yams, winter squash, corn, millet, rice	berries, apple, grape, citrus	nutritional yeast, algae, spices, seaweed

Fermented foods (vegetables, fruits, dairy, grains)	chutney and salsa; yogurt, kefir; soured whole grains or sourdough breads	absorption and aid its removal from the liver; enhance circulating vit. D levels (18,19,20). Can provide therapeutic changes to gut bacteria that help prevent development of diabetes (21).	probiotic supplements), plus enzymes. Additionally, other nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals are enhanced through the fermentation process (22).
Micro-algae	Sea vegetables, aka seaweed	Natural pigments in sea vegetables, including chlorophyll, exhibit anticancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-obesity, anti-angiogenic, and neuro-protective activities (23).	Types include arame, hijiki, wakame, nori, dulse.
Vinegar	Raw apple cider vinegar	Reduces rise in blood sugar after meals; excellent for those at risk for type 2 diabetes (24).	Take 1 – 2 tsp in a small glass of water right before eating to achieve this effect.
Turmeric / curcumin (spice)	Turmeric: whole fresh root or dried powder	Turmeric's use as medicine dates to at least 4,000 years ago. Current research demonstrates benefit in fighting infections and cancer, reducing inflammation, treating digestive disorders, and in helping ameliorate depression (25).	Use turmeric in curries; also delicious as addition to herbal chai teas. Therapeutically, C3 curcumin extract is powerful and shown to be effective.
<u>Beverages</u>			
Green tea	Loose or bagged tea leaves	Green tea and its active ingredient, epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), have been shown to improve symptoms and reduce the pathology in some animal models of auto-immune	Green tea does contain caffeine but comes in decaffeinated form for those who are sensitive.

<p>Pomegranate juice</p>	<p>Whole pomegranates, which can be eaten whole or juiced.</p>	<p>diseases (26).</p> <p>16 oz/day fresh juice shown to reduce blood pressure, stress hormones, and insulin resistance in people at high risk for cardiovascular disease (27).</p>	<p>Dilute all fresh fruit juices 50% with water to reduce sugar load.</p> <p>Use pomegranate seeds on salads, fish and seafood, and in chicken dishes; juice in vinaigrettes and sauces.</p>
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The Four levels of eating

To differentiate *Eating for Health* from other food systems, Dr. Bauman developed the *Four levels of eating*, a concept derived from observations of clients drawn from his many years of clinical practice. Each level has its place and reflects the awareness and maturity of a person’s overall pattern of eating, a daily act that affords us abundant choice and delight but is often done with little thought. Exercising greater levels of consideration, awareness and discrimination around food selection can help create greater accountability and responsibility for one’s own health.

Level one: eating for pleasure

This level is an immature and impulsive approach to eating, aimed at maximising pleasure and minimising emotional pain. Eating at this level is for immediate gratification. ‘I ate it because it tasted good’, ‘I ate it because it was there’, and ‘I ate as much of it as I wanted to’, are hallmarks of this stage.

Refined sugar and flour, industrially produced meats and dairy and poor quality fats are in this category. Food choices typically reflect what we were fed as young children to reward our quiet and appease us, such as ice cream, cookies and milk, candy and soft drinks. Excessive coffee, alcohol or refined flour products and sweets are also Level one eating. Emotional eating, which often means compulsive over-eating, is a Level one adaptation to pain, tension and stress.

Level two: eating for energy

Blood sugar regulation drives one’s food choices at this level. We choose substantial foods that allay hunger. The goal is to fill up and not have to eat again for three to four hours. In Level Two, carbohydrates become less refined; breads may have some whole wheat in them, but are still highly processed. Fast-foods like burgers and burritos are common choices. Little concern is placed on the quality of the food, the likely nutrient loss due to processing, possible pesticide residues, environmental toxins or added hormones, antibiotics, coloring and artificial flavours. Quickly accessible foods, such as peanut butter, breads, pastas, chips, and pizza are common Level two foods. Fresh fruits and vegetables play a minimal role in the diet at this stage. Level two eaters are typically unconcerned with the ecological impact of their food choices.

While filling and sometimes satisfying, Level two eating is unsustainable for most people and will eventually lead to serious, chronic degenerative conditions in middle-age, if not sooner.

Level three: eating for recovery

The inevitable cumulative effects of Level one and Level two eating are poor body composition — frequently obesity — and diminished energy, health and brightness of mood. People experiencing these effects often go on a diet formulated by someone else that organises foods into good and bad categories and limits quantities. It may or may not emphasise high-quality, organic foods. Examples of Level three eating are diet-books that promise quick and lasting weight-loss.

The benefits of such diets are typically short-lived. There is an immediate positive effect from eating fewer refined and processed foods, but then we reach a point of diminishing return. The diet is no longer satisfying and no longer producing the promised effects. The tendency then is to stay with the rigid, reductionist approach even longer or to slip back to Level one or Level two eating patterns.

This is a more mature approach than the first two levels, but it can be tiresome, judgmental and sometimes supplement-driven. It can also lead to poorer health, as recommendations are geared to the general public, not to individual needs. Food choices for Level one through three are based on what is readily available in the market-place or what is seen in advertisements.

Level four: Eating for Health

The goal of this level is lifelong learning about optimum nutrition, the healing effects of foods, self-awareness concerning food choices and eating behaviours, and an aesthetic and spiritual approach to the culinary arts. It shares some qualities with Level three, but allows for more personal choice, variety, seasonality and individuality according to one's personal needs, tastes, ethnic origin and commitment level.

Food choices at Level four are not made by formula, but rather by discerning what the body needs and what the best available choices are at a given time. At this level, we choose among a wide variety of healthful, organic foods, as well as a variety of dietary patterns. We exercise moderation in the amount of food we eat, and take more time and care in its preparation and presentation. Food is understood and appreciated as an instrument of personal healing and sharing with community. Nourishing ourselves becomes a wise, mature and loving act of awareness cultivated through daily practice.

At this level of eating, the concept of *S.O.U.L. Food becomes important*. This concept suggests that produce be as **S**easonal as possible; all foods be **O**rganic as much as possible, **U**nrefined, and as **L**ocally grown as possible. Choosing S.O.U.L. foods is a powerful tool for ensuring fresh foods with high nutrient-density, and the acronym reminds us that eating provides not only good nutrition but spiritual nourishment as well.

Food synergy

Consistent with the idea of nutrition heroes and Level Four eating is the idea that nutrients from food have different effects in the body than do nutritional supplements and provide us with greater health benefits. This concept is slowly growing as a subject of scientific enquiry, though due to the simpler nature of

testing individual nutrients in tightly controlled experiments, we still have much to learn. Nonetheless, what is currently being demonstrated (28) is what *Eating for Health* has maintained through the years: 1) we still have much to learn concerning the full complement of nutrient constituents of foods; new nutrients are being discovered on a regular basis, therefore a diverse intake of nutrient-rich foods is the best way to get the most nutrients; 2) nutrients in food enter our bodies in context, i.e., in balanced combinations in a whole foods matrix, and the body knows how to deal with them through digestion, metabolism, and absorption; 3) the food matrix allows for a timed release of nutrients rather than a large bolus from a supplement, which can overwhelm the body; and 4) the body can recognise the difference between a non-identical synthetic nutrient and its biologically natural form.

In support of this, studies have demonstrated, for instance, that whole foods such as apples, brassica vegetables, and tomatoes have a greater anti-proliferative effect on cancer cells than do individual isolated nutrients or mixes of nutrients (29). Similarly, it has been shown that a high intake of dietary antioxidant foods, but not their supplemental counterparts, reduced DNA damage in a group of radiation-exposed individuals (30). Because foods vary in their nutrient content according to variety, season, and the quality of their own food supply, (31) suggest that the best nutrient supplement is a diet composed of diverse whole foods.

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