### **Healthy Food for Life**



Your guide to

# Milk, yogurt and cheese

The foods and drinks on this shelf provide calcium needed for healthy bones and teeth. They also provide good quality protein for growth and repair.

Choose 3 servings a day.
Choose 5 if aged between
9 and 18 years.



#### Food Shelf Facts



Calcium found in dairy foods is important for bone health and especially during the teenage growth spurt.



Vitamin D helps absorb calcium better. The Irish diet is low in vitamin D – talk to your pharmacist or doctor about taking a supplement.



Low-fat options provide the same amount of calcium and other nutrients with fewer calories and saturated fat.



All foods from this shelf are a good source of calcium, protein, vitamin B12, riboflavin and vitamin A.

## What is a Serving?

#### 1 serving size is:

1 glass (200ml) milk

1 carton (125g) yogurt

1 bottle (200ml) yogurt drink

2 thumbs (25g) of hard or semi-hard cheese such as cheddar or edam

2 thumbs (25g) soft cheese such as brie or camembert

#### Portion guide for cheese

Use two thumbs, width and depth to guide portion size.



### **Healthy Eating Tips**



Choose reduced-fat or low-fat varieties. Choose low-fat milk and yogurt more often than cheese.



Milk on cereal can be a good way to reach 5 servings a day if aged 9 to 18 years.



Some yogurts and yogurt drinks can have added sugar. Check the label.



If choosing dairy alternatives such as soya milk and yogurts, choose those with added calcium.