Set Your Weight Loss Goals

Writing down your goals will keep you on track. Revise or add to your goals at any time. Start by setting a long-term weight loss goal. Next, set a goal for how much you wish to lose each week. Losing anywhere from ½ pound to 2 pounds per week is safe. Then, figure out how long you will give yourself to reach your long-term goal. Weigh yourself daily (or at least weekly) to track your progress.

1. **Set your weight loss goal to improve your health.**
   
   Start with a goal of 5% to 10% of your current weight. Losing just 5% can improve your health.

   **I currently weigh __________ pounds.**

   **My long-term goal is to lose __________ % of my current weight, which is equal to __________ pounds.**

   **Losing __________ (½ to 2) pound/s per week, I want to reach my long term goal by ____________ (date).**

   **Example:** If you weigh 250 pounds, your goal might be to lose 10%, which is 25 pounds. 5% is 12.5 pounds. It is very important to choose a goal you are confident you can reach. You can always reset your goals after you reach them.

**SMART Goals**

To achieve your long-term weight loss goal, create an action plan to decrease calories and increase physical activity. Here are some tips:

- Goals are a road map to help us succeed. They give us a clear idea of where we want to be and how to get there.

- SMART goals are especially useful.
**SMART stands for:**

Specific: There are specific actions to take to reach the goal.
Measurable: You know how much to do and when the goal has been achieved.
Action-oriented: You need to take action to achieve your goal(s).
Realistic: The goal is practical, given your resources and time.
Time-based: There is a specific time frame to achieve the goal.

**Example:** “I will walk up the stairs (Specific, Realistic, and Action-oriented), once daily (Measurable) for the next month (Time-based).”

2. **Set SMART goals to decrease calories in your diet.**

What can you do to eat or drink fewer calories?

**Examples:** “I will have low-fat milk with my cereal every day this week.”
“I will drink no more than three cans of sweetened soda per week.”

**Write them down:**

Goal one: __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Goal two: __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

3. **Set SMART goals to increase your physical activity.**

As your fitness improves, set new goals.

**Examples:** “Every day this week I will walk briskly for at least 15 minutes.”
“I will take the stairs up to my office at least once each day that I am at work.”

**Write them down:**

Goal one: __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Goal two: __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________