# Break Down Barriers to Healthy Eating

### **Too Many Diets**

Eating right is a lifestyle, not a diet. Ask "What can I eat that would be a little better?" Track and reward a client's consistency, not perfection. Discuss attitudes about food and self-compassion.

#### Don't Know What to Eat

List two processed foods and replace each one with a whole food. Write and edit grocery shopping lists. Add in just two servings of vegetables each day. Transition away from juice and soda by replacing one per day with a glass of water.

## Afraid to Eat Carbs

Carb-free diets cause quick weight loss but are difficult to sustain. Eat one handful of healthy, whole, unprocessed carbs at each meal.

### Need Wine to Unwind

Discuss how many empty calories are in alcoholic drinks. Swap out 1-2 drinks per week for a healthier way to unwind, such as a walk or hot tea.

## Not Enough Time

Plan weekly meals. Write a grocery shopping list based on the plan. Prep meals and snacks on Sundays.

## Can't Say No to Cravings

Make small changes to avoid giving in to cravings. Read labels carefully for sugar content. Limit added sugars and replace them with natural sugars, like fruit.

## **Emotional Eating**

Name the feeling. Identify mood and negative emotions. Take a five to ten minute timeout before eating because of emotions.

Substitute eating with a healthier coping strategy.

