

THIRD EDITION

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Linking Research, Theory, and Practice

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PREFACE

With the rates of diet-related diseases and obesity continuing to rise worldwide—alongside malnutrition in some countries—nutrition education is needed now more than ever. Fortunately, the important role played by nutrition education in reducing the risk of these conditions is increasingly recognized for schools, worksites, and communities, and consequently food and nutrition-related policy initiatives in institutions and government have increased over the past few years. This means that nutrition educators have an opportunity to make a genuine difference in the world.

Approach of This Text

This text seeks to assist nutrition educators by focusing on how to design, deliver, and evaluate the types of educational interventions and programs that the vast majority of nutrition educators conduct on an ongoing basis in their places of work, such as community programs, clinics, food banks, family programs, or schools.

Nutrition education is defined in this text as any combination of educational strategies, accompanied by environmental supports, designed to facilitate the voluntary adoption of food choices and other food- and nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well-being. It is delivered through multiple venues and involves activities at the individual, institutional, community, and policy levels.

Nutrition educators are usually very expert at creating sessions with interesting activities for their audiences. Research evidence suggests that these sessions can be more effective if the activities are clearly designed to address specific behavior change goals, along with the motivators, facilitators, and supports for change for their audiences. Research in behavioral nutrition and nutrition education has also generated conceptual models or theories that can help us understand how people make food choices and

what may motivate and facilitate change. Consequently, the text focuses on how to use the key theories or models as tools to help nutrition educators design interventions, programs, or sessions that indeed address the identified motivators, facilitators, and supports for diet-related behavioral change for their audiences.

This text has been designed for upper-level undergraduate and graduate nutrition students who are taking their first course in nutrition education, as well as for practitioners and managers already working in nutrition education who want a comprehensive resource for planning and delivering effective programs to their audiences.

Organization of This Text

This text is divided into three parts.

Part I describes the complexity of influences on food choices and the key elements of success for nutrition education. Later chapters in this part provide a clearly organized description of each of the major theories that can be used in nutrition education interventions to address potential motivators and facilitators of change, referred to here as determinants (or mediators) of action and behavior change as well as evidence for their usefulness. For each theory, a leader orients the student to the theory, and a take-home message summarizes it. Each theory is followed by a description of how to translate the theory into practical nutrition education activities, along with a case example of its use.

There is an increased appreciation that our food choices are influenced by social and environmental contexts. Nutrition education needs to address the numerous personal, environmental, and policy influences on food choices and dietary behaviors in order to assist individuals and communities in practicing healthy behaviors. A larger scope for nutrition education thus has evolved.

While group sessions remain primary, nutrition educators also work in collaboration with others on activities such as school and community gardens, cooking with children and adults, farm-to-school programs, school and community wellness policies, and initiatives to improve policy, systems, and environments. Consequently, Chapter 6 describes how to design environmental supports for action using a social ecological model.

Part II features the centerpiece of this text: A stepwise procedure intended to make it easier for students and practitioners to design effective nutrition education. This procedure, called DESIGN, shows how behavioral theory is translated into theory-based strategies and educational objectives, and then how these strategies and objectives can be practically implemented. These activities are then organized into educational plans for program components directed at groups. The DESIGN procedure integrates theory, research, and practice at every step, providing guidance on designing, implementing, and evaluating theory-based nutrition education. Part II also provides guidance on how to develop environmental support plans for changes in policy, social structures, and environments to increase opportunities for action. It also explores how to link evaluation to theory and intervention objectives. At the end of each chapter in Part II, the DESIGN procedure is illustrated by a case study. A set of blank worksheets are included at the end of Chapter 13.

Part III describes the nuts and bolts of implementing nutrition education with diverse groups ranging from preschool children to older adults, as well as addressing low-literacy audiences and diverse cultural groups through a variety of venues, including group sessions, written and visual materials, new technologies, and social marketing.

Features and Benefits

Nutrition Education: Linking Research, Theory, and Practice, Third Edition, includes a variety of features to prepare students and others to provide effective nutrition education to specific groups and to foster environmental supports for action:

- At the beginning of each chapter, an *Overview and Chapter Outline* help students anticipate what will be

covered. *Learning Objectives* improve retention of the material presented.

- *Nutrition Education in Action* features highlight concepts discussed in the chapter through examples of best practices and research culled from current education programs.
- *Boxes* draw out important information for the reader, particularly about specific theories in practice.
- A logic model approach is used in the DESIGN stepwise procedure, with the tasks and products of each step clearly stated.
- The *Worksheets* in Part II allow students and nutrition educators to develop their own programs using the DESIGN stepwise procedure.
- *Case examples* included throughout the text illustrate the use of each specific theory in practice. Furthermore, a case study introduced in Chapter 7 and followed throughout Part II illustrates each step of the DESIGN procedure for designing nutrition education.
- At the end of each chapter, *Questions and Activities* reinforce key concepts and references provide an opportunity for further study.

Instructor Resources

Qualified instructors can receive the full suite of Instructor Resources, including the following:

- Test Bank, containing more than 800 questions
- Slides in PowerPoint format, featuring more than 400 slides
- Instructor's Manual, providing Chapter Outlines and Teaching Suggestions
- Sample Syllabus, showing how a course can be structured around this text

The public needs and wants what nutrition education can offer. This text is designed to help students and nutrition educators gain the knowledge and skills needed to provide that nutrition education effectively.

Isobel R. Contento



NEW TO THIS EDITION

The basic structure of the text remains the same because it seems to work. However, just about every page has been extensively revised based on feedback from both faculty members and students who have used this text, as well as on ongoing research in the field. The chapters have been streamlined, shortened, and rewritten to make them easier to read and use. The addition of a full color presentation for this edition also enhances readability, clarifying both the illustrations and heading structure. Additional diagrams have been added. The *Nutrition Education in Action* examples have been updated throughout, as have all the references. Greater emphasis has been placed on the cultural context of nutrition education.

A key change in Part I is that the case examples have been greatly expanded to clarify how the theories are used in practice.

The chapters in Part II, meanwhile, have been rearranged to flow more logically. Chapters 7 through 13 lead the reader through the 6-step DESIGN Procedure for developing group sessions, cumulatively resulting in one or more educational plans (lesson plans) for use with groups, along with an evaluation plan. Chapter 14 leads the reader through the entire 6-step DESIGN procedure in one chapter, but this time resulting in an environmental support plan that includes an evaluation plan. In addition, the DESIGN Procedure worksheets have been completely reformatted and simplified to make them much easier for all to use.

Part III, focusing on how to effectively deliver nutrition education, has also been extensively edited to link it more closely to the design DESIGN activities in Part II.

Additional specific changes for each chapter are described in the following pages.

Chapter 1: Nutrition Education: Important, Exciting, and Necessary for Today's Complex World

- The chapter as a whole has been shortened, particularly the sections describing the effectiveness of nutrition education and viewpoints on its aims.
- A section has been added on the impact of our food choices on the planet.
- A table showing the conceptual framework for the text has been added to help orient the reader.
- The relationship between food and nutrition education *topics* and *behavior change* in nutrition education has been clarified.
- The behavior change approach has been clarified.

Chapter 2: Determinants of Food Choice and Dietary Change: Implications for Nutrition Education

- Box 2-1, “Assessing Our Audiences: A Checklist,” has been added to provide guidance in determining whether nutrition education has been appropriately tailored to an audience.

Chapter 3: An Overview of Nutrition Education: Facilitating Motivation, Ability, and Support for Behavior Change

- Chapter 3 is key to understanding important concepts central to this text, and as a result it has been extensively rewritten to make these concepts easier to understand, particularly the terms *theory* and *beliefs* and their role in *behavior change*.

- In order to help the reader better understand psychosocial theory, a section has been added in which the experiences of case study subjects are examined through behavioral science. The words used by the subjects in the interviews are matched with the labels psychologists give to these very same words.
- In many other places in the chapter, a concept is first introduced in lay language terms and then the psychosocial term for it is given.
- The differences among *motivating knowledge*, *facilitating knowledge*, *nutrition literacy*, and *food literacy* have been clarified, along with their relationship to *beliefs* and *behavior change*.
- The overview of nutrition education has been reframed in terms of elements of success.

Chapter 4: Increasing Awareness and Enhancing Motivation and Empowerment for Behavior Change and Taking Action

- Two major additions have been made to the case studies of Alicia and Maria: (1) a diagram for each based on different theory models and (2) full educational plans based on their respective theory models.
- Blank diagrams for the health belief model, the theory of planned behavior, and self-determination theory have been added.
- The model of goal-directed behavior has been added.

Chapter 5: Facilitating the Ability to Change Behavior and Take Action

- Two major additions have been made to the case study centered on Ray: (1) a theory model diagram based on social cognitive theory and (2) full educational plans based on the theory model.
- A blank diagram for social cognitive theory has been added.

Chapter 6: Promoting Environmental Supports for Behavior Change

- This chapter has been extensively edited with new examples of the social ecological model, most notably the new Community Nutrition Education Logic Model used by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Chapter 7: Step 1: Deciding Behavior Change Goals of the Intervention Based on Assessing Issues and Behaviors of Audience

- This chapter introduces the new name for the stepwise procedure used to design nutrition education: DESIGN.
- The worksheets for all steps have been completely rewritten, reformatted, and simplified.
- The worksheet for the case study appears at the end of the chapter, while blank worksheets for all steps now appear at the end of Chapter 13.

Chapter 8: Step 2: Exploring Determinants of Intervention Behavior Change Goals

- This chapter has been edited to reflect the new arrangement of chapters so that only determinants of individual behavior change are assessed: motivational determinants and facilitators of change.

Chapter 9: Step 3: Selecting Theory and Clarifying Intervention Philosophy

- The description indicating how to choose various components for the intervention has been deleted and moved to Chapter 14.

Chapter 10: Step 4: Indicating Objectives: Translating Behavioral Theory into Educational Objectives

- All objectives described in this chapter are for group sessions only (and indirect nutrition education if used). All text describing objectives directed at an environmental support component has been deleted and moved to Chapter 14.
- For the cognitive domain, the more recent wording and arrangement of objective levels has been used: Remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize.
- An extensive example of objectives from a curriculum has been added to help the reader write appropriate nutrition education objectives.

Chapter 11: Step 5: Generating Educational Plans: A Focus on Enhancing Motivation for Behavior Change and Taking Action

- This chapter is at the heart of writing educational or lesson plans for direct group nutrition education and has been streamlined for ease of reading.
- The relationships among determinants, educational objectives, behavioral change strategies, and practical educational activities have been clarified.
- The list of behavior change strategies for enhancing motivation has been revised to reflect new research.
- An extensive example from a curriculum has been added to help the reader clearly state strategies and educational objectives for determinants and guide the development of practical activities for strategies and objectives.
- The section on sequencing activities to generate educational plans has been re-written, and the sequence is now referred to as the 4 *Es*: excite, explain, expand, and exit.

Chapter 12: Step 5: Generating Educational Plans: A Focus on Facilitating the Ability to Change Behavior and Take Action

- The description of behavior change strategies for facilitating behavior change has been revised to reflect new research.
- More examples of goal setting are provided.

Chapter 13: Step 6: Nail Down the Evaluation Plan

- This chapter, which appeared in the previous edition as Chapter 14, has been completely rewritten to focus on designing the evaluation plan for group nutrition education sessions only (and indirect education if used). All references to evaluation of environmental supports has been deleted and moved to Chapter 14.
- Many more examples of evaluation instruments are included.
- Increased attention is given to design principles for measurement instruments that are appropriate for low-literacy clients.
- The discussion of process evaluation has been expanded, and a conceptual model is presented

showing how process evaluation components are related to outcome evaluation components.

- Blank worksheets for steps 1 through 6 of the DESIGN procedure are now collected at the end of this chapter. They have been simplified and totally reformatted.

Chapter 14: Using the DESIGN Procedure to Promote Environmental Supports for Behavior Change and Taking Action

- This new chapter takes the reader through all six steps of the DESIGN procedure to design interpersonal and policy, system, and environment support (PSE) components based on a social ecological model that uses the categories of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010*.
- Chapter 14 describes the types of theories or conceptual models that are appropriate for each level.
- This chapter provides more examples of social ecological approaches, including one that uses social cognitive theory to link activities at various levels.
- Worksheets for all six steps to promote environmental supports are placed together at the end of the chapter.

Chapter 15: Delivering Nutrition Education Effectively in Group Settings

- The chapter has been extensively rewritten to link the content conceptually to the DESIGN procedure.
- Sections on learning theory and instructional theory have been added.
- The section on communications has been expanded.
- A graphic organizer has been created to show the relationships among behavior change goals, determinants, behavior change strategies, instructional design theory, and communication principles.
- A lesson plan has been added to show how to integrate all the above considerations into one session.

Chapter 16: Media Supports and Other Channels for Nutrition Education

- The section on social marketing has been revised to include more recent views.
- The section on using new technologies has been totally rewritten and expanded.

Chapter 17: Working with Diverse Age, Cultural, and Literacy Population Groups

- The section on working with diverse cultural groups has been greatly expanded.
- A section on appropriate design principles and delivery methods for culturally sensitive nutrition education for culturally diverse audiences has been expanded.
- Sections on strategies for developing and delivering culturally sensitive interventions for African-American and Hispanic/Latino audiences have been added.
- The section on developing nutrition education materials and working with low-literacy audiences has been expanded considerably with more examples.
- A short section has been added about targeting subgroups that differ by food-related lifestyle factors based on differences in behaviors, attitudes, personal and social norms, values, and other factors.

Chapter 18: Nutrition Educators as Change Agents in the Environment

- Information on professional associations, public policy activities, and legislation has been updated.
- Sponsorship policies for professional societies have been updated.
- The text still ends with the challenge put out by Margaret Mead: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. And the quote from nutritionist Fern Estrow, “You can’t do everything but you can do something.”



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