

Child Care Food Program Meal Pattern for Children

A significant goal of the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) is to safely serve nutritious meals and snacks that meet program meal pattern requirements and are appetizing to children. To help achieve this goal, there are several policies regarding meals that child care providers must meet when participating in the CCFP.

Child care providers must ensure that each meal served to children contains, at a minimum, each of the food components in the amounts indicated for the appropriate age group as stated in the CCFP Meal Pattern for Children.

Child Meal Pattern Food Components:		Age Group and Serving Size:		
		1 and 2 year olds:	3 – 5 year olds:	6 – 12 ¹ year olds:
Breakfast (3 components)	Milk¹¹ Fluid milk	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup
	Vegetables and Fruits¹⁰ Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s) or Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice ²	1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1/2 cup 1/2 cup	1/2 cup 1/2 cup
	Grains/Breads^{3, 10} Bread or Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc. or Cold dry cereal ⁴ or Cooked cereal grains or Cooked pasta or noodle products	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/4 cup or 1/3 oz. 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/3 cup or 1/2 oz. 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1 slice 1 serving 3/4 cup or 1 oz. 1/2 cup 1/2 cup
Lunch/Supper (4 components – 5 items)	Milk¹¹ Fluid milk	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup
	Vegetables and Fruits^{8, 10} Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s), 2 or more	1/4 cup total	1/2 cup total	3/4 cup total
	Grains/Breads^{3, 10} Bread or Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc. or Cooked pasta or noodle products or Cooked cereal grains	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1 slice 1 serving 1/2 cup 1/2 cup
	Meat and Meat Alternates¹⁰ Lean meat or poultry or fish ⁵ or Alternate protein products ⁶ or Cheese or Egg (large) or Cooked dry beans or peas or Peanut butter or soynut butter or other nut/seed butters or Peanuts or soynuts or tree nuts or seeds ⁹ or Yogurt, plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened	1 oz. 1 oz. 1 oz. 1/2 egg 1/4 cup 2 Tbsp. 1/2 oz. = 50% 4 oz. or 1/2 cup	1 1/2 oz. 1 1/2 oz. 1 1/2 oz. 3/4 egg 3/8 cup 3 Tbsp. 3/4 oz. = 50% 6 oz. or 3/4 cup	2 oz. 2 oz. 2 oz. 1 egg 1/2 cup 4 Tbsp. 1 oz. = 50% 8 oz. or 1 cup

Note: Milk must be served with each breakfast, lunch and supper meal. Between a child's first and second birthday, serving whole milk is strongly recommended. After the child's second birthday, it is required that lowfat or fat-free milk be served. To encourage adequate calcium intake, lowfat flavored milk can be served.

Conversions:

1/2 cup = 4 fl. oz.
3/4 cup = 6 fl. oz.
1 cup = 8 fl. oz.

1 pint = 2 cups
1 quart = 2 pints = 4 cups
1 gallon = 4 quarts = 16 cups

CCFP Meal Pattern for Children *(continued)*

Child Meal Pattern Food Components:		Age Group and Serving Size:		
		1 and 2 year olds:	3 – 5 year olds:	6 – 12 ¹ year olds:
Snack⁷ (Select 2 different components)	Milk¹¹ Fluid milk	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup
	Vegetables and Fruits¹⁰ Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s) or Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice ²	1/2 cup 1/2 cup	1/2 cup 1/2 cup	3/4 cup 3/4 cup
	Grains/Breads^{3, 10} Bread or Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc. or Cold dry cereal ⁴ or Cooked cereal grains or Cooked pasta or noodle products	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/4 cup or 1/3 oz. 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1/2 slice 1/2 serving 1/3 cup or 1/2 oz. 1/4 cup 1/4 cup	1 slice 1 serving 3/4 cup or 1 oz. 1/2 cup 1/2 cup
	Meat and Meat Alternates¹⁰ Lean meat or poultry or fish ⁵ or Alternate protein products ⁶ or Cheese or Egg (large) or Cooked dry beans or peas or Peanut butter or soynut butter or other nut or seed butters or Peanuts or soynuts or tree nuts or seeds or Yogurt, plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened	1/2 oz. 1/2 oz. 1/2 oz. 1/2 egg 1/8 cup 1 Tbsp. 1/2 oz. 2 oz. or 1/4 cup	1/2 oz. 1/2 oz. 1/2 oz. 1/2 egg 1/8 cup 1 Tbsp. 1/2 oz. 2 oz. or 1/4 cup	1 oz. 1 oz. 1 oz. 1/2 egg 1/4 cup 2 Tbsp. 1 oz. 4 oz. or 1/2 cup

- Children ages 13 through 18 must be served minimum or larger portion sizes as specified for children ages 6-12.
- Vegetable or fruit juice must be full-strength, pasteurized and 100% juice. Unless orange or grapefruit juice, it must also be fortified with 100% or more of Vitamin C.
- Bread, pasta or noodle products, and cereal grains, must be whole grain or enriched; cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., must be made with whole grain or enriched meal or flour; cereal must be whole grain or enriched or fortified. Prepackaged grain/bread products must have enriched flour or meal or whole grain as the first ingredient.
- Cold dry cereal can be measured by volume (cup) or weight (ounces) whichever is less.
- The serving size for lean meat, poultry or fish is the edible portion as served.
- Alternate protein products must be equal to at least 80% of the protein quality of milk (casein) determined by the Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) and must contain at least 18% protein by weight when fully hydrated or formulated.
- At snack, select at least two different food components. Juice must not be served when milk is served as the only other component.
- At lunch and supper, serve two or more kinds of vegetables(s) and/or fruit(s) or a combination of both. Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice must not be counted to meet more than one-half of this requirement.
- At lunch and supper, no more than 50% of the meat/meat alternate requirement can be met with nuts or seeds. Nuts or seeds must be combined with another meat/meat alternate to fulfill the requirement. For purpose of determining combinations, 1 ounce of nuts or seeds is equal to 1 ounce of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish.
- Servings can be an equal amount of any combination of this component. Note: Less than 1/8 cup of fruit or vegetables is not creditable.
- After the child's first birthday and prior to the second birthday, serving whole milk is strongly recommended. After the child's second birthday, it is required that lowfat or fat free milk be served.

Additional Food Component Requirements

Child care providers must ensure quality meals are served to children and that nutrition education is encouraged. When planning menus the following requirements must be met:

Fluid Milk:

- After the child's first birthday and prior to the second birthday, serving whole milk is strongly recommended.
- After the child's second birthday, lowfat (1%) or fat-free milk must be served.

Vegetable or fruit or juice:

- Vegetable or fruit juice must be full-strength, pasteurized, and 100% juice. Unless orange or grapefruit juice, it must also be fortified with 100% or more of Vitamin C.
- Fruit juice must not be served more than once a day.
- Fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables and/or fruits must be served at least twice a week on the breakfast menu and twice a week on the snack menu.
Please note: For those centers that claim two snacks and one meal, instead of two meals and one snack, fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables and/or fruits must be served at least twice a week *at each* snack time.
- Good vitamin A sources must be served a minimum of twice a week and must come from vegetables and fruits.
- Good vitamin C sources must be served daily and must come from vegetables and fruits or fruit juice.
- Less than 1/8 cup of vegetables and fruits may not be counted to meet the vegetable/fruit component.

Grains/breads:

- Grain/bread food must be whole grain, enriched, or made from whole grain or enriched meal or flour. Bran and germ are counted as enriched or whole-grain meals or flours. Cornmeal, corn flour, and corn grits must be designated as whole or enriched to be creditable.
- Only ready-to-eat breakfast cereals containing 10 grams of sugar or less per serving as stated on the Nutrition Facts label are allowed. Cereals with more than 10 grams of sugar per serving cannot be served as sweet grain/bread foods.
- Sweet grain/bread foods must be whole grain or made with enriched flour or meal and may be credited as a bread serving at breakfast and snack only. Prepackaged grain/bread products must have enriched flour or meal or whole grains as the first ingredient listed on the package.
- No more than two sweet grain/bread breakfast items and no more than two sweet grain/bread snack items may be served per week (not to exceed four sweet items per week). Please note: Regardless of how many different types of snacks you offer (i.e. morning snack, afternoon snack, and evening snack) – your CCFP menu must not contain more than two sweet grain/bread snack items per week.

Meat or meat alternate:

- Commercially processed combination foods (convenience entrees – frozen or canned) must have a CN label or manufacturer's analysis sheet stating the food component contribution to the meal pattern.
- A serving of cooked dry beans or peas may count as a vegetable or as a meat alternate, but not as both components in the same meal.

****Please note that donated foods cannot be used to contribute to the meal pattern requirements****