



Program Reminders



Infants in your Care must be Offered CCFP

Providers participating in the CACFP must offer meals to ALL eligible children enrolled in their family child care home, **including infants**. Program Regulations define an enrolled child as “a child whose parent or guardian has submitted to an institution a signed document which indicated that the child is enrolled in childcare” (7CFR226.2). A family child provider may not avoid this obligation by stating that the infant is not “enrolled” in the CACFP or by citing logistical or cost barriers to offering infant meals. Decisions on offering the program must be based on whether the child is enrolled at the family child care home.



As long as an infant is in care during the meal service period, the family child care provider must offer the infant a meal that complies with program requirements. **An infant’s parents or guardian may decline the offered provider’s infant formula and supply breastmilk or an iron fortified formula in which case, the provider will be reimbursed for serving the infant.** To receive reimbursement, the provider must serve and feed the infant according to the Infant Meal Pattern and supply solid foods **when developmentally appropriate**.

Policy Updates

We are expanding the Choices for Children Child Care Food Program!

Once again, we will be participating in a state funded “**Expansion Project**” for the months of March and April 2017 in order to add more providers to our program. If you know of any providers or are in contact with providers through a provider group on Facebook or a blog, please help us by referring them to the Choices for Children Child Care Food Program! If you refer a new provider to us, we will send you a 16 x 15 inch CFC Chico bag! The perfect size for storing in your purse when you forget your grocery bag!



**Upcoming Holidays
and Closures**
Memorial Day—May 29th

March Claim Deadlines

Web Kids: **Submit** by April 1st

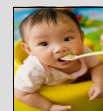
Scan Forms: **Must Be Received by April 5th**
(Late Scan Forms will not be accepted!)

Enrollment Forms: **Received by April 5th**

Continuing Development, Inc. (Choices for Children) is an equal opportunity provider.



Nutrition News



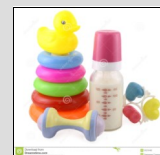
Upcoming Changes to Infant Meal Pattern

USDA recently revised the CACFP meal patterns for infants and children to have access to healthy, balanced meals throughout the day. The changes to the infant meal pattern support breastfeeding and the consumption of vegetables and fruit without added sugars. These changes are based on the scientific recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics and stakeholder input. CACFP centers and day care homes must comply with the new meal patterns by October 1, 2017.

Highlights to New Infant Meal Pattern (effective October 1, 2017)

Encourage and support breastfeeding:

- Providers may receive reimbursement for meals when a breastfeeding mother comes to the day care center or home and directly breastfeeds her infant; and
- Only breastmilk and infant formula are served to infants 0 through 5 months old.



Developmentally appropriate meals:

- Two age groups, instead of three: 0 through 5 month olds and 6 through 11 months old; and
- Solid foods are gradually introduced around 6 months of age, as developmentally appropriate.

More nutritious meals:

- Requires a vegetable or fruit, or both, to be served at snack for infants 6 through 11 months old;
- No longer allows juice or cheese food or cheese spread to be served; and
- Allows whole egg, yogurt and ready to eat cereals with restrictions on sugar in yogurt and cereals.

For more information on the new CACFP Meal Patterns visit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>



Egg Handling and Safety Tips at Easter



Here are some important safe handling methods to remember this time of year.

- Wash your hands thoroughly with hot soapy water and rinse them before handling the eggs when cooking, cooling, dyeing and hiding them.
- Be sure and inspect the eggs before purchasing them, making sure they are not dirty or cracked.
- Store eggs in their original cartons in the refrigerator rather than the refrigerator door.
- If you’re having an Easter egg hunt, consider hiding places carefully. Avoid areas where the eggs might come into contact with pets.
- Make sure you find all the eggs you’ve hidden and then refrigerate them. Discard cracked eggs. As long as the eggs are NOT out of refrigeration over two hours, they will be safe to eat.

Adapted from: www.food.unl.edu & www.fns.usda.gov

