

Child Care Food Program Meal Pattern for Infants

The Child Care Food Program (CCFP) provides aid to child care institutions and family day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children. Child care providers have a powerful opportunity to demonstrate healthy habits at an early age that can serve children throughout life.

To comply with CCFP regulations, the Infant Meal Pattern lists the amount of food to be offered to children from birth through the 11th month (their 1st birthday). **To support and encourage moms who breastfeed, meals containing breastmilk have different guidelines for reimbursement than meals containing formula.** Food within the meal pattern should be the texture and consistency appropriate for the age of the infant and may be served during a span of time consistent with the infant's eating habits. The infant meal must contain each of the following components in the amounts indicated for the appropriate age group in order to qualify for reimbursement.

Infant Meal Pattern Food Components:		Age Group and Serving Size:	
		Birth – 5 months:	6 – 11 months:
Breakfast and Lunch/Supper	Breastmilk ¹ or formula ²	4-6 fl. oz.	6-8 fl. oz.
	<i>*And one or more of the following:</i>		
	Infant cereal ^{2,3} , meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans/peas		*0-4 Tbsp.
	Cheese		*0-2 oz.
	Cottage cheese		*0-4 oz. (volume)
	Yogurt ⁴		*0-8 oz. (1 cup)
	<i>*And:</i>		
Vegetable or fruit, or a combination of both ⁶		*0-2 Tbsp.	
Snack	Breastmilk ¹ or formula ²	4-6 fl. oz.	2-4 fl. oz.
	<i>*And one or more of the following:</i>		
	Bread ³		*0-1/2 slice
	Crackers ³		*0-2
	Infant cereal ^{2,3} or ready-to-eat cereal ^{3,5}		*0-4 Tbsp.
	<i>*And:</i>		
Vegetable or fruit, or a combination of both ⁶		*0-2 Tbsp.	
*NOTE: A SERVING OF THIS COMPONENT(S) IS REQUIRED WHEN THE INFANT IS DEVELOPMENTALLY READY TO ACCEPT IT.			

1. Breastmilk or formula or portions of both, must be served; however, it is recommended that breastmilk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months. For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered, with additional breastmilk offered at a later time if the infant will consume more.
2. Infant formula and dry infant cereal must be iron-fortified.
3. Beginning October 1, 2021, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.
4. Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.
5. Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21 grams of sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).
6. Fruit and vegetable juices must not be served.

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Guidelines to Follow

Breastmilk and/or Infant Formula:

- Breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both, must be served to infants birth through 11 months of age.
- Breastmilk is recommended in place of formula from birth through 11 months.
- For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered. Additional breastmilk must be offered at a later time if the infant will consume more.
- Infant formula must be iron-fortified. Facilities must offer at least one infant formula. It is strongly encouraged to offer two; one milk-based and one soy-based.
- When a parent or guardian chooses to provide breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula and the infant is consuming solid foods, the institution or facility must supply *all other required meal components* in order for the meal to be reimbursable.
- Meals in which a mother directly breastfeeds her infant at the institution or facility are eligible for reimbursement.

Fruits/vegetables:

- Fruit and vegetable juices must not be served.
- A vegetable, fruit, or combination of both must be served at snack to 6-11 month old developmentally ready infants.

Grain/bread foods:

- Grain/bread items (bread, soft tortilla, crackers, teething biscuit, ready-to-eat breakfast cereals) must be whole grain, enriched, or made from whole grain or enriched meal or flour.
- Only ready-to-eat breakfast cereals containing 6 grams of sugar or less per dry ounce may be served (Refer to the *Florida WIC-Approved Cereal List*).

Solid foods:

- The gradual introduction of solid foods may begin at 6 months of age, or before or after 6 months of age if it is developmentally appropriate for the infant and in accordance with USDA/FNS guidance.
- Once an infant is developmentally ready to accept solid foods, the institution or facility is required to offer them to the infant.
- Must be of an appropriate texture and consistency and should only be introduced after consulting with the infant's parent or guardian.
- Parents or guardians should request in writing when an institution or facility should start serving solid foods to their infant.
- Can be either home-prepared baby foods or commercially prepared baby foods.
- Infant cereal must be iron-fortified.
- Do not serve honey or food that contains honey to infants less than one year of age - honey may contain botulinum spores, which can be harmful to infants.