

Eating Through Meal Patterns

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM New Child Meal Patterns



Breakfast			
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12
Fluid Milk ²	4 fluid ounces	6 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Vegetables, fruits, or portions of both ³	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Grains (oz eq) ^{4,5,6}			
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	1/2 serving	1/2 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ⁷ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat breakfast cereal (dry, cold) ^{7,8}			
Flakes or rounds	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup
Puffed cereal	3/4 cup	3/4 cup	1 1/4 cup
Granola	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup

¹ Must serve all three components for a reimbursable meal.

² Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.

³ Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

⁴ At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.

⁵ Meat and meat alternates may be used to meet the entire grains requirement a maximum of three times a week. One ounce of meat and meat alternates is equal to one ounce equivalent of grains.

⁶ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁷ Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

⁸ Beginning October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size specified in this section for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals must be served. Until October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size for any type of ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is 1/4 cup for children ages 1-2; 1/3 cup for children ages 3-5; 3/4 cup for children 6-12.



The new CACFP Meal Patterns go into effect on October 1, 2017.

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**ONE
BITE
AT A TIME**

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Lunch and Supper (Select all five components for a reimbursable meal.)			
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12
Fluid Milk²	4 fluid ounces	6 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Meal/Meat Alternates			
Lean meat, poultry, or fish	1 ounce	1 1/2 ounce	2 ounces
Tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products ³	1 ounce	1 1/2 ounce	2 ounces
Cheese	1 ounce	1 1/2 ounce	2 ounces
Large egg	1/2	3/4	1
Cooked dry beans or peas	1/4 cup	3/8 cup	1/2 cup
Peanut butter or soy nut butter or other nut or seed butters	2 tbsp.	3 tbsp.	4 tbsp.
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened ⁴	4 ounces or 1/2 cup	6 ounces or 3/4 cup	8 ounces or 1 cup
<i>The following may be used to meet no more than 50% of the requirement:</i> Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds, as listed in program guidance, or an equivalent quantity of any combination of the above meat/meat alternates (1 ounces of nuts/seeds = 1 ounce of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish)	1/2 ounce=50%	3/4 ounce=50%	1 ounce=50%
Vegetables⁵	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
Fruits^{5,6}	1/8 cup	1/4 cup	1/4 cup
Grains (oz eq)^{7,8}			
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	1/2 serving	1/2 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ⁹ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat breakfast cereal (dry, cold) ⁹			
Flakes or rounds	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup
Puffed cereal	3/4 cup	3/4 cup	1 1/4 cup
Granola	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup

¹ Must serve all five components for a reimbursable meal.

² Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.

³ Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A to Part 226.

⁴ Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.

⁵ Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

⁶ A vegetable may be used to meet the entire fruit requirement. When two vegetables are served at lunch or supper, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.

⁷ At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards the grains requirement.

⁸ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of the creditable grain.

⁹ Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

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Snack (Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack.)			
Food Components and Food Items ¹	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12
Fluid Milk²	4 fluid ounces	6 fluid ounces	8 fluid ounces
Meal/Meat Alternates			
Lean meat, poultry, or fish	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce
Tofu, soy product, or alternate protein products ³	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce
Cheese	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce
Large egg	1/2	1/2	1/2
Cooked dry beans or peas	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup
Peanut butter or soy nut butter or other nut or seed butters	1 tbsp.	1 tbsp.	2 tbsp.
Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened ⁴	2 ounces or 1/4 cup	2 ounces or 1/4 cup	4 ounces or 1/2 cup
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds, as listed in program guidance.	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce
Vegetables⁵	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup
Fruits⁵	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup
Grains (oz eq)^{7,8}			
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice
Whole grain-rich or enriched bread product, such as biscuit, roll or muffin	1/2 serving	1/2 serving	1 serving
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified cooked breakfast cereal ⁸ , cereal grain, and/or pasta	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
Whole grain-rich, enriched or fortified ready-to-eat breakfast cereal (dry, cold) ^{8,9}			
Flakes or rounds	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup
Puffed cereal	3/4 cup	3/4 cup	1 1/4 cup
Granola	1/8 cup	1/8 cup	1/4 cup

¹ Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack. Only one of the two components may be a beverage.

² Must be unflavored whole milk for children age one. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk for children two through five years old. Must be unflavored low-fat (1 percent), unflavored fat-free (skim), or flavored fat-free (skim) milk for children six years old and older.

³ Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A to Part 226.

⁴ Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.

⁵ Pasteurized full-strength juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal, including snack, per day.

⁶ At least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain-rich. Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement.

⁷ Beginning October 1, 2019, ounce equivalents are used to determine the quantity of creditable grains.

⁸ Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21.2 grams sucrose and other sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal).

⁹ Beginning October 1, 2019, the minimum serving sizes specified in this section for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals must be served. Until October 1, 2019, the minimum serving size for any type of ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is 1/4 cup for children ages 1-2; 1/3 cup for children ages 3-5; 3/4 cup for children 6-12.