



Feeding Infants in the CACFP



Objectives

1. Know the baseline infant meal requirements

2. Understand the infant meal pattern

3. Identify creditable foods

4. Know how to correctly claim infant meals

After this presentation today you will be able to:

1. Know the baseline infant meal requirements.
2. Better understand the infant meal pattern.
3. Be able to identify creditable foods for infants.
4. Know how to correctly claim infant meals.

Infant Meal Requirements

1

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Infant Meal Requirements

All agencies must...

1. Offer Iron Fortified Infant Formula,
2. Offer additional foods (IFIC and table foods)

Regardless of if infant meals will be claimed.

There are certain requirements center's who are caring for infants must meet, regardless of if their meals will be claimed.

As stated on the slide, all agencies are required to offer at least one type of Iron Fortified Infant Formula (IFIF), Iron Fortified Infant Cereal (IFIC), and additional foods in appropriate textures dependent upon each infant's developmental readiness. Remember, as an operator of the CACFP you are required to offer meals to all enrolled and attending children, which includes infants.

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**Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
Infant Menu**

As a program in the CACFP, we must offer to supply all meal components of the [Infant Meal Pattern](#).

We will supply the following items to your infant while in our care:

- One type of iron-fortified infant formula
- Iron-fortified infant cereal
- Baby foods and/or table foods in the appropriate textures for your infant

Parents/Guardians may choose to accept our offered formula and/or foods or provide your own.

Our program will provide the following formula and infant foods:

Formula Offered:

Parents/Guardians: You may choose to accept our offered formula or provide a different iron-fortified formula of your choice, expressed breast milk or breastfeed your baby on-site.

Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal Offered:
Check one or more boxes as it applies to your program

Rice Barley
 Wheat Oat

Foods Offered:
Check one or more boxes as it applies to your program

Store-bought baby foods
 Fruits and vegetables
 Meats
 Homemade baby foods (i.e. pureed whole foods)
 Table foods (i.e. foods from the regular menu)
 Grains (crackers, ready-to-eat cereal, bread)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

The CACFP infant meal pattern encourages delaying the introduction of solid food until the infant is 6 months. However, the age when solid foods are introduced will depend on the infant. Infants develop at different rates - some infants are ready to consume solid foods before 6 months of age while others are ready after 6 months.

Food amounts listed in the meal pattern begin with zero (0) because not all infants are developmentally ready to eat solid foods at a certain age. It does not mean serving the food is optional. Once an infant is developmentally ready to eat foods, including infants younger than 6 months, programs are required to offer them to the infant.

Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both	6-8 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both
	and when developmentally ready <small>(One or more items from the following)</small>
	0-½ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron-fortified infant cereal (IFIC)*, OR 0-4 tablespoons meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas); OR 0-2 ounces of cheese; OR 0-4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese or yogurt AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both (no juice)
<small>*Grain items (i.e., bread, pancakes, waffles, breakfast cereal, etc.) are not creditable foods at breakfast, lunch, and supper in the infant meal pattern. They cannot be served in place of IFIC.</small>	
Snack	
Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both	2-4 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron-fortified infant formula, or portions of both
	and when developmentally ready <small>(One or more items from the following)</small>
	0-½ oz eq bread/bread-like items**, OR 0-½ oz eq crackers; OR 0-½ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron-fortified infant cereal (IFIC); OR 0-½ oz eq ready-to-eat breakfast cereal AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both (no juice)
<small>**Bread-like items: biscuit, bun, roll, muffin, English muffin, pancake, pita bread, soft tortilla, waffle. See next page for the Infant Grains Chart and serving size amounts.</small>	
Additional Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfed infants who consume less than the minimum required amount of breastmilk per feeding may be served less than the minimum with additional breastmilk offered later if the infant will consume more. • Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces. • Grains served at snack must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour. • Breakfast cereals served at snack must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce. 	

Guidance Memo 12: [CACFP Infant Menu \(Spanish\)](#)

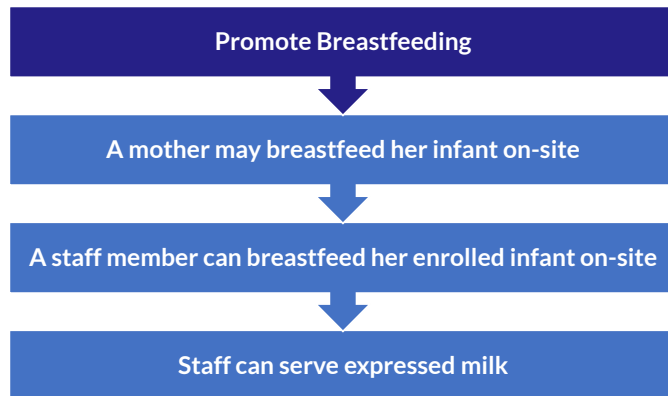
Guidance Memo 12: [Infant Meal Pattern \(Spanish\)](#)

Additionally, agencies must notify families of the foods they offer by completing the **Infant Menu** and either distributing it to families along with the **Infant Meal Pattern** or posting these two documents in a visible location for families at the center. Families cannot be required to supply foods or formula for their infant. However, families may choose to decline the center's formula and foods and provide their own.

Understand the Infant Meal Pattern



2 Understand the Infant Meal Pattern



First and foremost, the CACFP promotes breastfeeding and serving breastmilk to infants. A program can be reimbursed when the infant is served expressed breastmilk while in your care and when the mother breastfeeds her infant on-site.

Infants fed expressed breastmilk who consume less than the minimum required amount of breastmilk per feeding may be served less than the minimum with additional breastmilk offered later if the infant will consume more. If that infant consumes more, and the total amount consumed meets the minimum required amount, then that is considered a full meal and may be claimed.

A key take away here is that, if an infant is solely fed breastmilk, their meals can be claimed.

2

Infant Meal Pattern

Two age groups

Developmental readiness

Food components beginning with “zero”

Transitioning to Whole Milk

Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains

CACFP Infant Meal Pattern	
<p>The CACFP infant meal pattern encourages delaying the introduction of solid food until the infant is 6 months. However, the age when solid foods are introduced will depend on the infant. Infants develop at different rates - some infants are ready to consume solid foods before 6 months of age while others are ready after 6 months.</p> <p>Food amounts listed in the meal pattern begin with zero (0) because not all infants are developmentally ready to eat solid foods at a certain age. It does not mean serving the food is optional. Once an infant is developmentally ready to eat foods, including infants younger than 6 months, programs are required to offer them to the infant.</p>	
Breakfast / Lunch / Supper	
<p>Birth through 5 months</p> <p>4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both</p>	<p>6 through 11 months</p> <p>4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both</p> <p>and when developmentally ready (One or more items from the following)</p> <p>0-¼ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron fortified infant cereal (IFIC)*, OR 0-4 tablespoons meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas; OR 0-2 ounces of cheese; OR 0-4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese or yogurt AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both (no juice)</p> <p>*Grain items (i.e., bread, pancakes, waffles, breakfast cereal, etc.) are not creditable foods at breakfast, lunch, and supper in the infant meal pattern. They cannot be served in place of IFIC.</p>
Snack	
<p>Birth through 5 months</p> <p>4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both</p>	<p>6 through 11 months</p> <p>2-4 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both</p> <p>and when developmentally ready (One or more items from the following)</p> <p>0-¼ oz eq bread/bread-like items**; OR 0-¼ oz eq crackers; OR 0-¼ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron fortified infant cereal (IFIC); OR 0-¼ oz eq ready-to-eat breakfast cereal AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both (no juice)</p> <p>**Bread-like items: biscuit, bun, roll, muffin, English muffin, pancake, pita bread, soft tortilla, waffle See next page for the Infant Grains Chart and serving size amounts.</p>
Additional Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breastfed infants who consume less than the minimum required amount of breastmilk per feeding may be served less than the minimum with additional breastmilk offered later if the infant will consume more. Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces. Grains served at snack must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour. Breakfast cereals served at snack must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce. 	

1. The infant meal pattern offers flexibility by separating into two age groups, birth through five months and six through eleven months.

2. The meal pattern changes in the six through eleven-month group. However, the six-month mark is not a hard deadline as infants start solids at different ages (some will start before six months). The CACFP recognizes that not all infants are ready to eat solid foods right at six months of age and may need additional time before they are developmentally ready.

3. Therefore, the serving sizes for all food components for meals and snacks begin with “zero” for infants six through eleven months. This is a transitional stage for the infant’s diet, and it is important to be continuously communicating with the infant’s family.

4. Once an infant turns one year old, they must be served whole milk to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. There is a one-month grace period from twelve months to thirteen months to allow for the transition. However, at thirteen months, the child must be only consuming whole milk, otherwise a medical statement must be on file. Reminder: breastmilk is an allowable milk in the CACFP and may be served to a child older than 13 months if the parents prefer.

5. Keep in mind, using ounce equivalents for grains applies once infants become developmentally ready for these additional foods and you’ll see this reflected in the six to eleven months group of the infant meal pattern. The USDA **Feeding Infants Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains** is a helpful resource for agencies with infants who are developmentally ready for grains.

2



CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

The CACFP infant meal pattern encourages delaying the introduction of solid food until the infant is 6 months. However, the age when solid foods are introduced will depend on the infant. Infants develop at different rates - some infants are ready to consume solid foods before 6 months of age while others are ready after 6 months.

Food amounts listed in the meal pattern begin with zero (0) because not all infants are developmentally ready to eat solid foods at a certain age. It does not mean serving the food is optional. Once an infant is developmentally ready to eat foods, including infants younger than 6 months, programs are required to offer them to the infant.

Breakfast / Lunch / Supper	
Birth through 5 months	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both	6-8 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both
	<p style="text-align: center;">↓ and when developmentally ready ↓ (One or more items from the following)</p> 0-½ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron fortified infant cereal (IFIC)*; OR 0-4 tablespoons meat, fish, poultry, whole egg, cooked dry beans, or cooked dry peas; OR 0-2 ounces of cheese; OR 0-4 ounces (volume) of cottage cheese or yogurt AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both (no juice)

**Grain items (i.e., bread, pancakes, waffles, breakfast cereal, etc.) are not creditable foods at breakfast, lunch, and supper in the infant meal pattern. They cannot be served in place of IFIC.*

We'll start by looking closer at the birth through five months group. This group requires only breastmilk or IFIF to be served in the minimum serving amounts. If an infant is fed IFIF, remember the center must offer to provide a formula for the infant. An infant's family may decline the IFIF offered by the center and provide their own. Side note, there is a list of exempt (non-creditable IFIF) which I will talk more about later.

Once an infant becomes developmentally ready (which again is typically around six months but may occur sooner or later), the meal pattern changes to incorporate additional foods. This is a transitional period, therefore you'll notice the meal pattern states "one or more servings from the following components" in addition to breastmilk/formula: IFIC/meat/meat alternate and fruits/vegetables. Additionally, the serving sizes of these additional foods start at zero. The center should be continuously communicating with the infant's family at this point and be working your way up to a full meal containing foods from the three components.

I wanted to emphasize the information in the red box that states grain items are non-creditable at Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper for infants. So, bread, crackers, buns, rolls, noodles, etc. all of these are not creditable for infants at Breakfast, Lunch, or Supper. They can only be served as extras.

Once an infant has been introduced to all foods, they must be served the full infant meal pattern for their meals to be reimbursable.

2	AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both <i>(no juice)</i>
	<i>*Grain items (i.e., bread, pancakes, waffles, breakfast cereal, etc.) are not creditable foods at breakfast, lunch, and supper in the infant meal pattern. They cannot be served in place of IFIC.</i>
	Snack
	Birth through 5 months
	6 through 11 months
4-6 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both	2-4 fluid ounces breastmilk, iron fortified infant formula, or portions of both ↓ and when developmentally ready ↓ <i>(One or more items from the following)</i> 0-½ oz eq bread/bread-like items**; OR 0-¼ oz eq crackers; OR 0-½ oz eq (0-4 tablespoons) iron fortified infant cereal (IFIC); OR 0-¼ oz eq ready-to-eat breakfast cereal AND 0-2 tablespoons vegetable, fruit, or a combination of both <i>(no juice)</i>
<i>**Bread-like items: biscuit, bun, roll, muffin, English muffin, pancake, pita bread, soft tortilla, waffle See next page for the Infant Grains Chart and serving size amounts.</i>	
Additional Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfed infants who consume less than the minimum required amount of breastmilk per feeding may be served less than the minimum with additional breastmilk offered later if the infant will consume more. • Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces. • Grains served at snack must be whole grain-rich, enriched meal, or enriched flour. • Breakfast cereals served at snack must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce. 	

For snack, the meal pattern is generally the same with some variation in the serving sizes and foods that can be offered. The main difference here is that grains are a creditable component at snack to be served with breastmilk or formula.

Additionally, just like the one to 18 year old meal pattern, when yogurt is served, it may not exceed more than 23 grams of sugar per six ounces and breakfast cereals (including IFIC and ready to eat cereal) must contain no more than six grams of sugar per dry ounce.

It is important that centers plan out infant meals ahead of time to ensure creditable foods are being served and a substitution is planned if a modified infant meal is needed from the regular center menu (especially when grains are being served at Breakfast, Lunch, or Supper to the older participants).

Identify Creditable Foods

3

3

Infant Formula

Must be iron fortified ✓

Regulated by the FDA ✓

Made in the U.S. ✓



Since all infants start by consuming breastmilk or formula, we are going to start our discussion of creditable foods with formula.

Creditable formula must be iron fortified to be creditable.

A creditable IFIF is any infant milk or soy-based formula regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and labeled as “iron-fortified,” “infant formula with iron” or other similar statement on the front of the package.

Also, the IFIF must be made in the U.S.

3

Infant Formula

Must be iron fortified ✓

Regulated by the FDA ✓

Made in the U.S. ✓

Guidance Memo 12: Meal Requirements for Infants Crediting Infant Foods Tab - List of Exempt Formulas

Low Iron ✗

Serving formula to infants >13 months ✗

Serving after the 'use by' date ✗

Not FDA approved (exceptions apply) ✗

Imported formulas (exceptions apply) ✗

Non-creditable formulas include:

- Low iron formulas,
- Serving formula to children 13 months or older without a medical statement for a disability related SDN,
- Serving formula after its "used by" date,
- FDA exempt infant formulas,
- and formulas purchased outside of the U.S.

As I stated earlier, there is a List of Exempt Formulas that are non-creditable in the CACFP. I am not going to go through the entire list today, however I'll just say these are formulas formulated for infants with inborn errors of metabolism, low birth weight and other medical/dietary issues that call for a special formula to be prescribed to them. In these cases, an infant with a special dietary need may be substituted one of these formulas if a valid medical statement and special dietary needs tracking form is on file. The List of Exempt Formulas can be found under GM 12: Meal Requirements for Infants Under the Infant Foods tab on our Guidance Memorandum webpage.

Additionally, with the shortage of infant formula that occurred about one year ago, there was a discretionary policy for imported formulas to be creditable in the CACFP that expired on January 6, 2023. Some of these imported formula's manufacturers applied to the FDA to allow them to continue to be creditable after January 6th, 2023. The FDA approved these on a case-by-case basis. For those imported formulas that the FDA did approve, they remain creditable as long as they are available for sale in the U.S. retail market, and they are utilized prior to the formula expiration date. So, if you are seeing a family bring in an imported formula, I would recommend reaching out to your assigned consultant to ensure that it was one of the formulas the FDA approved.

3

Developmental Readiness

Pureed Foods

- Store-bought
- Homemade

Semi-Solid Foods

- Softened
- Mashed

Table Foods

- Appropriate textures and sizes
- Finger foods

As Infant Becomes Developmentally Ready




Now let's move on to when infants start eating additional foods. Foods served to infants will vary depending on the developmental readiness of the infant. Some infants will start with pureed foods that are store-bought or made at your facility by blending whole foods, then as they progress, they will move on to Semi-solid and table foods.

When infants start to eat additional foods, they can eat off the center menu. However, keep in mind the differences in the infant meal pattern to one to 18 year old meal pattern that may require a substitution to be made.

3

Foods for Infants Resource


Guidance Memo 12: Meal Requirements for Infants Crediting Infant Foods Tab - Foods for Infants

CACFP		Foods for Infants	
This is a list of common creditable and not creditable foods for the infant meal pattern. For questions about food(s) not on this list, contact your assigned consultant.			
Infant Cereal			
Creditable		Not Creditable (do not serve)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Iron-fortified (rice, wheat, barley, oat, multigrain) Single grain and multiple-grains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Not iron-fortified × Dry cereal, containing fruit (ex. banana, apple) × Jarred "wet" infant cereals × Infant cereal served in a bottle × Cereals for older children and adults (ready-to-eat cereal, enriched farina, regular oatmeal, and corn grits) are not a creditable substitute for infant cereal 		
Store-bought Fruits and Vegetables (Baby Food)			
Creditable		Not Creditable (do not serve)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Single fruit or vegetable (ex. peas) with a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient ✓ Multiple fruits and/or vegetables (ex. squash banana) with a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <small>INGREDIENTS: PEARS, ZUCCHINI, CORN, WATER, VITAMIN C (ASCORBIC ACID).</small> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Water is first ingredient × Jarred cereal, desserts, or puddings with fruit, including those that list fruit as the first ingredient × Infant combination dinners, entrees, or meals with multiple component ingredients (ex. roasted vegetable chicken dinner or lasagna dinner) unless the product's label includes volume information that credits one or more food components 		
Store-bought Meat & Meat Alternates (Baby Food)			
Creditable		Not Creditable (do not serve)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meat or poultry is first ingredient ✓ Gravy and broth are ok <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <small>INGREDIENTS: GROUND TURKEY, WATER, CORNSTARCH</small> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Infant combination dinners, entrees, or meals with multiple component ingredients (ex. turkey rice dinner or chicken noodle dinner) unless the product's label includes volume information that credits one or more food components 		
Rev. 3/2020			

Next, I wanted to talk through a resource called Foods for Infants. This is a very helpful resource that programs can refer to and determine the different types of foods that are creditable or not creditable for infants.


3

Foods for Infants Resource



Foods for Infants

This is a list of common creditable and not creditable foods for the infant meal pattern.
For questions about food(s) not on this list, contact your assigned consultant.

Infant Cereal	
Creditable	Not Creditable (do not serve)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Iron-fortified (rice, wheat, barley, oat, multigrain) Single grain and multiple-grains <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Not iron-fortified × Dry cereal, containing fruit (ex. banana, apple) × Jarred "wet" infant cereals × Infant cereal served in a bottle × Cereals for older children and adults (ready-to-eat cereal, enriched farina, regular oatmeal, and corn grits) are not a creditable substitute for infant cereal
Store-bought Fruits and Vegetables (Baby Food)	
Creditable	Not Creditable (do not serve)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Single fruit or vegetable (ex. peas) with a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Water is first ingredient × Jarred cereal, desserts, or puddings with fruit, including those

Looking first at iron fortified infant cereals which may be served at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, and Snack once and infant is developmentally ready, all must be iron fortified single or multigrain. On the non-creditable side note that infant cereal may not be served in a bottle and ready to eat cereals that may be served to older children or adults are not a creditable substitute for infant cereal.

3

Foods for Infants Resource

Store-bought Fruits and Vegetables (Baby Food)	
Creditable	Not Creditable (do not serve)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Single fruit or vegetable (ex. peas) with a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient ✓ Multiple fruits and/or vegetables (ex. squash banana) with a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;"> INGREDIENTS: PEARS, ZUCCHINI, CORN, WATER, VITAMIN C (ASCORBIC ACID). </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Water is first ingredient ✗ Jarred cereal, desserts, or puddings with fruit, including those that list fruit as the first ingredient ✗ Infant combination dinners, entrees, or meals with multiple component ingredients (ex. roasted vegetable chicken dinner or lasagna dinner) unless the product's label includes volume information that credits one or more food components
Store-bought Meat & Meat Alternates (Baby Food)	
Creditable	Not Creditable (do not serve)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meat or poultry is first ingredient ✓ Gravy and broth are ok <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;"> INGREDIENTS: GROUND TURKEY, WATER, CORNSTARCH </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Infant combination dinners, entrees, or meals with multiple component ingredients (ex. turkey rice dinner or chicken noodle dinner) unless the product's label includes volume information that credits one or more food components

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Now let's move on to store-bought fruits and vegetables that may be served at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, and Snack once an infant becomes developmentally ready. Jarred baby foods containing fruits and/or vegetables must list a fruit or vegetable as the first ingredient. Additionally, the baby food may be a single type of fruit or vegetable or may be a mixture of fruits or vegetables since for the infant meal pattern, fruits and vegetables are one component.

Similarly, for store-bought meats and meat alternates that may be served at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, and Snack once an infant becomes developmentally ready, the first ingredient must be a meat but may contain gravy or broth as well.

Note that store-bought combination baby foods such as chicken and rice, beef and vegetable, apple and chicken purees are not creditable without CACFP crediting information (like a store-bought combination food requiring a CN label). For this reason, we highly recommend sticking to single component jarred baby foods because the amount of each component in commercial combination baby foods is difficult to determine.

3 Other Non-creditable Infant Foods

GBD and
Desserts

Juice and
Fruit/Vegetable
Blends

Honey

Milk

Peanut Butter
and Nuts

Cheese Food or
Spread

Here are a few additional foods to keep in mind that are not creditable for infants:

- Grain based desserts and desserts such as pudding or Jell-o.
- Juice and fruit/vegetable blends due to the high sugar content.
- Honey for risk of infant botulism.
- Milk as a substitute for breastmilk or formula.
- Peanut butter and nuts due to choking risk.
- Cheese food or cheese spread.

Correctly Claim Infant Meals

4

4

Correctly Claim Infant Meals

In order to claim meals and snacks served to infants:

Foods must be creditable

Meet meal pattern requirements

Record on one of the Infant Meal Forms

All components offered consistent with infant's schedule

Program must supply all but 1 component

Our last objective we will be discussing is how to correctly claim infant meals.

In order to claim infant meals...

- Foods served must be creditable to infants.
- Meet the infant meal pattern requirements according to each infant's developmental readiness.
- All required components of the meal are offered during a timeframe consistent with the infant's schedule (i.e. formula at 9:00a.m., IFIC at 9:30a.m.). Foods do not have to be served at the same time.
- The program must supply all components or all but one component: The CACFP allows families to provide only one component for a meal or snack that is claimed. If families provide more than one component, the meal cannot be claimed.

That is how infants who are solely breastfed are allowed to be claimed, because the family is only supplying one component. The same goes for infants who are solely eating IFIF provided by the family. If the family chooses to decline the IFIF offered by the center, and they provide a creditable IFIF for their infant, their meals are eligible to be claimed.

- Lastly, when a creditable meal is served, it must be recorded on one of the DPI Infant Meal Forms or other DPI approved form. The meal must be recorded on the *Infant Meal Form* at the point of service or directly after a complete meal has been offered to the infant. Again, not all components must be offered at one time to infants as they may not be hungry for everything all at once, but in order for a meal to be reimbursable (dependent upon their developmental readiness) all components of the meal or snack must be offered before it can be considered a complete meal/snack.

4

Infant Meal Form

Two Infant Meal Forms

GM 12: Meal Requirements Infants, Infant Meal Record Keeping Tab – Infant Meal Form (Spanish)

Do not complete or not claiming infant meals

CACFP Infant Meal Form Month/Year: _____

Each month complete a new form for each infant
Not required for infants whose meals/snacks will not be claimed

Infant's Full Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: _____ months

1. Complete Meal Components Chart

- At the beginning of each month, mark the Parent Supplied or Program Supplied column only for the meal component(s) the infant is currently eating
- In the Start Date column record the date only when the infant starts eating a new component or change are made during the month (e.g. infant switches from breastmilk to program-supplied formula)

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk**			
Infant Formula*			
Iron-fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruit/Vegetables**			
Meat/Meat Alternatives**			
Grains			

*Iron-fortified milk and formula are 2 components. If breast milk is served, mark who supplies formula. Used to supplement infant formula and all foods to each enrolled infant. Parents/guardians cannot be required to provide infant formula or foods.
**Baby Joints and/or Baby Joints in the non-regular diet.

2. Complete Meal Count Chart

RECORD a MEAL/SNACK WHEN program supplies all components or all but one component (parent/guardian may supply one component).

Put an "X" or "✓" in the Meal Count Chart for that meal/snack at the time the meal/snack is served or immediately after.

- Meals/snacks that contain only breast milk and/or formula can be marked regardless of who supplies the item (program or parent)
- When an infant is eating two or more components, the program must supply all components or all but one component in order to record the meal/snack in the chart. This applies to all ages, including an infant who starts solid foods before 6 months

DO NOT RECORD a MEAL OR SNACK WHEN the parent/guardian supplies two or more components.

DO NOT put an "X" or "✓" in the Meal Count Chart

- Ex: Program supplies infant cereal, parent supplies formula and fruit
- Ex: Parent supplies formula and all foods

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
TOTAL			

3. Total Infant Meals: At the end of the month, total each column and include numbers with total meal counts submitted on the monthly claim. Keep this form on file to support the monthly claim.

Requirement: Programs must offer to supply at least one type of iron-fortified infant formula and all foods to each enrolled infant. Parents/guardians cannot be required to provide infant formula or foods.

Rev. 8/2021

Let's take a closer look at the Infant Meal Forms before we get into a short activity.


There are two different Infant Meal Forms. One for programs approved to claim Breakfast, Lunch and Snack (Infant Meal Form - B, L, Snack). One for programs approved to claim all meals (Infant Meal Form - All Meals).

These forms are available under GM 12: Meal Requirements Infants under the Infant Meal Record Keeping Tab on the GM website.

If your program is not claiming infant meals, you do not need to complete these forms.

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Infant Meal Form



CACFP Infant Meal Form

Month/Year: _____

Each month complete a new form for each infant
Not required for infants whose meals/snacks will not be claimed

Infant's Full Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: ____ months

1. Complete Meal Components Chart

- At the beginning of each month, mark the *Parent Supplied* or *Program Supplied* column only for the meal component(s) the infant is **currently** eating
- In the *Start Date* column record the date only when the infant starts eating a new component or changes are made during the month (e.g. infant switches from breastmilk to program-supplied formula)

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

This is the Infant Meal Form for programs claiming Breakfast, Lunch and Snack.

You must complete a separate Infant Meal Form for each infant you are claiming. Infant meals do not get counted on the Meal Count Forms kept for one to 18 year old children. Additionally, a new Infant Meal Form must be started each month.


On the Infant Meal Form, in the chart at the top right section of the form, the program staff will fill out what components the infant is currently eating, who is supplying the components (may be both parent and program) and the start date of when the meal component was introduced to the infant.

Note: once an infant is introduced to a new meal component and the start date is recorded on the Infant Meal Form, the start date information does not need to be transferred to the next month's Infant Meal Form.

4


Infant Meal Form

2. Complete Meal Count Chart

 **RECORD a MEAL/SNACK WHEN program supplies all components or all but one component (parent/guardian may supply one component).**

Put an 'X' or ✓ in the *Meal Count Chart* for that meal/snack at the time the meal/snack is served or immediately after.

- Meals/snacks that contain only breast milk and/or formula can be marked regardless of who supplies the item (program or parent)
- When an infant is eating two or more components, the program must supply all components or all but one component in order to record the meal/snack in the chart. This applies to all ages, including an infant who starts solid foods before 6 months

 **DO NOT RECORD a MEAL OR SNACK WHEN the parent/guardian**

Meal Count Chart


Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			

The chart in the lower right section of the form is where the infant's daily meals must be recorded.

Only mark the meal if the infant was offered a complete meal, all foods served were creditable, the program supplied all or all but one component, and the meal was recorded directly after a complete meal was offered.

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Infant Meal Form

 **DO NOT RECORD a MEAL OR SNACK WHEN the parent/guardian supplies two or more components.**

DO NOT put an 'X' or ✓ in the Meal Count Chart

- Ex: Program supplies infant cereal, parent supplies formula and fruit
- Ex: Parent supplies formula and all foods

3. Total Infant Meals: At the end of the month, total each column and include numbers with total meal counts submitted on the monthly claim.
Keep this form on file to support the monthly claim.

Requirement: Programs must offer to supply at least one type of iron-fortified infant formula and all foods to each enrolled infant. Parents/guardians cannot be required to provide infant formula or foods.

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14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
TOTAL			

At the end of the month, total each column of the infant’s meals. These totals get added on to the meal count totals for the one to 18 year old children to report on the claim.

All Infant Meal Forms must be kept on file to support the CACFP claim.

Activity



Infant Meals Activity

Read each scenario. Complete the Meal Components Chart and circle the meals and/or snacks that can be claimed.

- 3-month-old infant is served formula provided by the center.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast Snack(s)
Lunch/Supper None

- 6-month-old infant is served breast milk and is supplemented with family provided formula.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast Snack(s)
Lunch/Supper None

- 6-month-old infant is served breast milk and pureed fruit provided by the family.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast Snack(s)
Lunch/Supper None



5-10 minutes

Each of you should have an Infant Meals Activity sheet with five different scenarios. I want you all to take the next five to ten minutes to go through the scenarios and complete the Meal Components Chart as well as decide which meals can be claimed for each scenario. Feel free to complete on your own or discuss with the people around you. We will come back in five to ten minutes to go over the answers.

Activity

1. 3-month-old infant is served formula provided by the center.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*		✓	XXX
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast

Snack(s)

Lunch/Supper

None

All meals and snacks can be claimed in this scenario because when formula is the only item an infant is eating, then that is all they are consuming while they attend the center. In this scenario, the center is providing the formula, therefore the center is providing all the food the infant is eating while at the center, so all their meals can be claimed.

Activity

2. 6-month-old infant is served breast milk and is supplemented with family provided formula.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*	✓		
Infant Formula*	✓		XXX
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**			
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast

Snack(s)

Lunch/Supper

None

All meals and snacks can be claimed in this scenario because formula and breastmilk are considered the same (one) meal component. The family may choose to provide up to one creditable component of their infant's meals and snacks. In this scenario the infant is solely consuming formula/breastmilk and no other meal components. The family is providing the one meal component the infant is currently consuming, therefore the center may claim all the infant's meals.

Activity

3. 6-month-old infant is served breast milk and pureed fruit provided by the family.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*	✓		
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**	✓		XXX
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast Snack(s)
Lunch/Supper **None**

No meals or snacks can be claimed in this scenario because the family is providing more than one component of the infant's meals/snacks.

Activity

4. 8-month-old infant is served breast milk and program-provided iron fortified infant cereal and store-bought fruits and vegetables.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*	✓		
Infant Formula*			
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal		✓	XXX
Fruits/Vegetables**		✓	XXX
Meats/Meat Alternates**			
Grains			

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast

Snack(s)

Lunch/Supper

None

All meals and snacks can be claimed in this scenario because the family is providing only one component of the infant's meals/snacks, and the center is providing the other meal components.

Activity

5. 11-month-old infant is served program-provided formula. The infant is served family-provided meat/meat alternates, and fruits and vegetables at breakfast and lunch. The infant is served program-provided grains at snack.

Meal Components	Parent Supplied	Program Supplied	Start Date
Breast Milk*			
Infant Formula*		✓	XXX
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal			
Fruits/Vegetables**	✓		XXX
Meats/Meat Alternates**	✓		XXX
Grains		✓	XXX

What meals can be claimed?

Breakfast **Snack(s)**

Lunch/Supper None

Snacks can be claimed in this scenario because the center is providing the infant's formula and grains at snack. The family is providing fruits/vegetable and meats/meat alternates as part of their infant's meals/snacks. However, at snack, if the center is supplying the formula (required as one of the meal components served at snack), then they automatically can claim the infant's meals because the other snack component could be either supplied by the parents (as the one parent supplied component) or supplied by the center.



Thank you!

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