



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Child (Ages 1-18) Meal Pattern

Breakfast¹: Serve all 3 components for a reimbursable Breakfast²

Food Components and Food Items	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ³
Fluid Milk⁴	4 fl oz (½ cup)	6 fl oz (¾ cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)
Vegetables, Fruits, or portions of both⁵	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Grains⁶ (oz. eq.)⁷	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Bread, Biscuit, or Roll	14 grams	14 grams	28 grams	28 grams
Waffle, Pancake, Croissant	17 grams	17 grams	34 grams	34 grams
Oatmeal and other cooked cereal grains ⁸	¼ cup cooked	¼ cup cooked	½ cup cooked	½ cup cooked
Cereal, Ready-to-Eat Flakes or Rounds ⁸	½ cup	½ cup	1 cup	1 cup
Cereal, Ready-to-Eat Granola ⁸	⅛ cup	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup
Cereal, Ready-to-eat Puffed ⁸	¾ cup	¾ cup	1 ¼ cup	1 ¼ cup

Snack¹: Select 2 of the 5 components for a reimbursable snack⁹

Food Components and Food Items	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ³
Fluid Milk⁴	4 fl oz (½ cup)	4 fl oz (½ cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)
Meat or Meat Alternate (M/MA) (oz. eq.)⁷	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Cheese	½ oz.	½ oz.	1 oz.	1 oz.
Peanut butter or other nut/seed butters	1 Tbsp.	1 Tbsp.	2 Tbsp.	2 Tbsp.
Yogurt (including soy yogurt) ¹⁰	2 oz. (¼ cup)	2 oz. (¼ cup)	4 oz. (½ cup)	4 oz. (½ cup)
Vegetables⁵	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
Fruits⁵	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	¾ cup
Grains⁶ (oz. eq.)⁷	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Bread, Biscuit, or Roll	14 grams	14 grams	28 grams	28 grams
Cracker, Graham (about 5" by 2½")	14 grams/ 1 cracker	14 grams/ 1 cracker	28 grams/ 2 crackers	28 grams/ 2 crackers
Crackers (various)	11 grams	11 grams	22 grams	22 grams

Lunch or Supper¹: Serve all 5 components for a reimbursable Lunch or Supper¹¹

Food Components and Food Items	Ages 1-2	Ages 3-5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-18 ³
Fluid Milk⁴	4 fl oz (½ cup)	6 fl oz (¾ cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)	8 fl oz (1 cup)
Meat or Meat Alternate (M/MA) (oz. eq.)⁷	1 oz. eq.	1 ½ oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.
Lean meat, poultry, or fish	1 oz. eq.	1 ½ oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.	2 oz. eq.
Tofu ¹²	2.2 oz. or ¼ c	3.3 oz. or ⅜ c	4.4 oz. or ½ c	4.4 oz. or ½ c
Cheese	1 oz.	1 ½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
Large egg	½ egg	¾ egg	1 egg	1 egg
Cooked dry beans/peas	¼ cup	⅜ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Peanut butter or other nut/seed butters	2 Tbsp.	3 Tbsp.	4 Tbsp.	4 Tbsp.
Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds	1 oz.	1 ½ oz.	2 oz.	2 oz.
Vegetables^{5, 13, 14}	⅛ cup	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
Fruits⁵	⅛ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup
Grains⁶ (oz. eq.)⁷	½ oz. eq.	½ oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.	1 oz. eq.
Bread, Biscuit, or Roll	14 grams	14 grams	28 grams	28 grams
Pasta, Rice, or Grits	14 grams dry/ ¼ cup cooked	14 grams dry/ ¼ cup cooked	28 grams dry/ ½ cup cooked	28 grams dry/ ½ cup cooked
Tortilla, Soft, Flour or Corn	14 grams	14 grams	28 grams	28 grams

CACFP Meals for Children 1-18 Years

- ¹ Water must be offered to children throughout the day. Water is not part of a reimbursable meal and may not be served instead of fluid milk.
- ² All three components must be served for a reimbursable breakfast. Meat and Meat Alternates (M/MA) may be used to meet the entire grains component requirement a maximum of three times a week at breakfast. One ounce equivalent of M/MA is equal to one ounce equivalent of Grains. [Offer Versus Serve](#) is an option only for At-Risk Afterschool Sponsors.
- ³ Larger portion sizes than specified may need to be served to children ages 13 through 18 years old to meet their nutritional needs.
- ⁴ [Milk type served](#) must be unflavored whole milk for children one year of age (12-23 months). Milk must be unflavored low-fat (1%) or unflavored fat-free (skim) for children 2-5 years of age. Milk must be unflavored or flavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free (skim) milk for children 6 years old and older.
- ⁵ Pasteurized 100% juice may only be used to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement once per day.
- ⁶ At least one serving of grains per day must be whole-grain rich across all meals and snacks served at each site. [Grain-based desserts](#) and refined grains do not count towards meeting the Grains component requirement.
- ⁷ Ounce equivalent serving sizes are used to determine serving sizes in the Grains and Meat/Meat Alternate components. See [CACFP Grains Ounce Equivalent Resources](#) for more information on crediting Grains. Refer to the [Food Buying Guide](#) for Meat/Meat Alternate ounce equivalent yields.
- ⁸ Breakfast cereals must be whole grain-rich, fortified, or enriched, and contain no more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce (no more than 21 grams Added Sugars per 100 grams of dry cereal). Refer to the [Breakfast Cereal Sugar Limit Wallet Card](#) and the WIC Cereal List.
- ⁹ Only one of the two required components for snack may be a beverage. Offer versus serve is not an option for snack.
- ¹⁰ Yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces. Refer to the [Yogurt Sugar Limit Wallet Card](#).
- ¹¹ All five components must be served for a reimbursable lunch and/or supper. [Offer Versus Serve](#) is an option only for At-Risk Afterschool Sponsors.
- ¹² Tofu must contain at least 5 grams of protein for every 2.2 oz (¼ cup) serving.
- ¹³ Lunch and supper must include one Fruit and one Vegetable OR two Vegetables. When two Vegetables are served, two different kinds of vegetables must be served.
- ¹⁴ Leafy greens, such as lettuce or spinach, only credit for half of the volume served. ½ cup of spinach will credit for ¼ cup of Vegetables.

Abbreviations:

Fl oz = Fluid Ounces (volume)
Cup, c = Measuring cup (8 ounces)
Oz. eq. = Ounce Equivalent
Oz. = Ounce (weight)
Tbsp. = Tablespoon
Grams, g = Grams (weight)

Additional Resources:

[ODE CNP CACFP Meal Pattern and Menu Planning Page](#)
[Crediting Handbook for the CACFP \(USDA\)](#)
[The Food Buying Guide \(USDA\)](#)
[Nutrition Standards for CACFP Meals and Snacks \(USDA\)](#)