

## Nutrition Services

# Infant Resource Materials Child and Adult Care Food Program

Fiscal Year 2022

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## **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Feeding Infants**

Child care centers may choose to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP Centers caring for infants **must** offer at least one formula to infants less than one year of age. The parent/guardian will accept or decline the center's formula. If they decline the center offered formula, they must indicate they will provide either breastmilk or the specific type of infant formula. If the parent/guardian provides their own formula, it must meet USDA requirements to be reimbursable unless a medical statement is obtained.

When the infant is developmentally ready for solid foods to be added to the meal pattern the center must offer these components. However, parents/guardians may **voluntarily** provide one meal component per meal. This is considered one donated item and the center may claim that infant's meal for reimbursement. If two or more components are provided from a source other than the center, the center may **NOT** claim that meal for reimbursement. This means for infants developmentally ready for solid foods and a parent/guardian provides breast milk or formula the center must supply all solid food components for the meal to be eligible for reimbursement. If the infant is receiving the formula offered by the center, the parent/guardian could bring one solid food component per meal for a reimbursable meal.

Centers and sponsoring organizations also need to ensure that the parent or guardian is truly *choosing* to provide the preferred component(s). The center **must not solicit, request or require** the parent or guardian to provide the components to reduce centers cost.

The introduction of solids is based on the developmental readiness of each infant. The parent/guardian will determine, in consultation with their doctor, when to start solid foods. Written documentation is required to be on file identifying solid foods the infant may be served. NDE provides the Infant Formula Selection & Solid Foods form to record specific solids approved by the parent/guardian. The form is designed to be updated as the infants are developmentally ready to accept more foods. It is recommended to have the Infant Formula & Solid Foods forms posted or readily available for parents to update regularly.

If you have any questions, please call Nutrition Services at 800-731-2233 or 402-471-2488.





**Infant Formula Selection & Solid Foods**  
Nebraska Child & Adult Care Food Program



The **Infant Formula Selection & Solid Foods Form** is intended to be a living document shared between the child care provider and families to ensure that formula/solid baby foods (texture appropriate) are served at the discretion of the parents. **As new foods are introduced at home, the form must be updated.** This allows the child care providers to know when and what solid foods should be served.

Infant Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
A. <b>Infant Formula Selection:</b> This center provides _____ (brand) iron fortified infant formula to all infants under one year of age. I <b>ACCEPT</b> or <b>DECLINE</b> (Please circle one) the center's formula. If declined, please identify what will be provided <b>BREASTMILK</b> (circle) or <b>FORMULA</b> (list brand) _____.	
<b>Approximate Feeding Times:</b> _____ <b>Approximate Quantity (Ounces):</b> _____	
<b>Parent Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____	

If the parent provides the formula, the name of the brand they use must be indicated. The center must ensure that the iron-fortified infant formula is reimbursable in the CACFP; regulations require that to be eligible for reimbursement infant formula served must be iron-fortified [7 CFR 226.20(b)(2)]. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defines iron-fortified infant formula one that contains 1 milligram or more of iron per 100 Calories when prepared according to label directions [21 CFR 107.10(b)(4)(i)]. The number of milligrams (mg) of iron per 100 kilocalories (calories) of formula can be found on the nutrition facts label of infant formulas.

The following criteria may be used to determine whether a formula is eligible for reimbursement without a medical statement:

1. Ensure that the formula is not an FDA Exempt Infant Formula. An exempt infant formula is an infant formula labeled for use by infants who have inborn errors of metabolism or low birth weight, or who otherwise have unusual medical or dietary problems, as defined in 21 CFR 107.3.
2. Look for “Infant Formula with Iron” or a similar statement on the front of the formula package. All iron-fortified infant formulas must have this type of statement on the package.
3. Use the nutrition facts label as a guide to ensure that the formula is iron-fortified. The nutritive values of each formula are listed on the product’s nutrition facts label. To be considered iron-fortified, an infant formula must have 1 mg of iron or more per 100 calories of formula when prepared in accordance with label directions.
4. All Infant Formulas must be approved by the FDA. Therefore, infant formula purchased outside the United States are not acceptable.





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR INFANT MEAL RECORDS

The infant meal pattern for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) divides the infant's first year into two age groups: Birth through five months and six months through 11 months. Ranges are given for each food portion in the meal pattern to allow for flexibility based on the infant's rate of development and his or her appetite. The amounts listed are the minimum portions that must be served to meet requirements. Some quantities begin with a zero quantity **does not mean these foods are optional**. Rather, this indicates the variations that exist from infant to infant and even day-to-day within an infant's feeding preferences. Some infants may have progressed to larger servings and/or additional foods. Communication with parents is important to coordinate what the infants are being fed at home with what they are being fed in childcare.

A record documenting what and the amount of food offered at each meal and snack **must be completed** for each infant claimed for reimbursement. Either a Daily Infant Meal Record or a Weekly Infant Meal Record **must be completed**. Providers may decide which record is more appropriate for their center.

**Daily Infant Meal Records** – This form is for several children for one day. Supply the name of the site and the date (MM/DD/YR). Write the names of all infants served that day. Indicate the *specific kinds* and *amounts* of foods offered to each infant based on the meal pattern requirements; i.e., 6 oz. formula, 3 T. green beans, 1/2 oz rice cereal, 2 T chicken.

Add complete and creditable Infant Meals to a point-of-service meal count sheet, i.e. the blue and white Record of Meals and Supplements Served forms. The meal counts from this form must then be transferred to the Claim for Reimbursement Worksheet, form NS-401-G.

**Weekly Infant Meal Records** – This form is for one child for all week including the first and last name. Supply the name of the site and the date (MM/DD/YR).on the top of each form. Write the *specific* kinds and amounts of food offered to the infant based on meal pattern requirements; i.e., 6 oz. formula, 4 T. plums, 2 T. chicken, 1/2 oz rice cereal.

This form must be used in combination with a point-of-service (POS) meal count sheet, i.e.: blue and white Record of Meals and Supplements Served forms or an approved alternative form.

## Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Feeding Infants

For a list of creditable and non-creditable food items, refer to the *Feeding Infants, in the Child and Adult Care Food Program* guide, Appendix F., pages 149 – 171. This is not an all-inclusive list but includes foods that are most commonly served to infants. The guide is available for download, or to order a print copy at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/feeding-infants-child-and-adult-care-food-program>.

For more information on creditable foods in CACFP see the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs available online and mobile app at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

### Infant Reminders:

- In the CACFP, a child is considered an infant until his/her first birthday and the entire CACFP Infant Meal Pattern must be followed.
- Each infant must have a complete “Infant Formula Selection” section on the Infant Formula Selection & Solid Foods form.
- Each center is responsible to maintain documentation that provides specific instructions and permission from parents/guardian for each infant being fed solid foods (Infant Formula Selection & Solid Foods form). The documentation should include what foods and textures each infant is developmentally ready to eat.
- A complete enrollment form must be on file for all infants.
- In order to claim a child in the “Free” or “Reduced” category, the sponsor must have a complete and current Income Eligibility and Enrollment Form on file that shows the child qualifies for “Free” or “Reduced” meals based on household size and income.
- A medical statement must be on file for any variation from the Infant Meal Pattern.
- The required Infant Meal Record must show specifically what and how much each child was offered (i.e., 4 oz. breastmilk, 2 T. beef, 1/2 oz rice cereal, 2 T. plums). A staff member must complete the Infant Meal Record at the time the infant meal is prepared.
- The meal must be documented on the point-of-service Meal Count Sheets (blue and whites).
- Up to three meals per day per child may be claimed: if three meals are claimed, at least one must be a snack.
- When an infant is breastfed by his/her visiting mother, that meal can be claimed by the center.
- All infant records must be kept for four years.

Visit NDE Nutrition Services website for additional information and forms.

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms-resources/child-and-adult-care-food-program/>

