

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

This document provides guidance and sample hot lunch and supper menus for ages 3-5 in child care centers, emergency shelters, at-risk afterschool care centers, and family day care homes that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). These sample menus are based on the CACFP meal patterns for children, including the updates required by the USDA final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#).

For information on the CACFP meal patterns for children, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) [Meal Patterns for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage. For information on the crediting requirements, visit the CSDE’s [Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage and [Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.



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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Overview of Lunch and Supper Meal Pattern Requirements

The CACFP lunch and supper meal pattern for ages 3-5 requires minimum servings of five meal components, including  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of unflavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free milk,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounce equivalents (oz eq) of meats/meat alternates,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vegetables,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of fruits, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq of grains. Vegetables may substitute for the entire fruits component at any lunch or supper.

Each meal component must provide at least the minimum meal pattern serving. CACFP menus may include additional foods or larger servings beyond the minimum requirements. Serve nutrient-dense foods that are appropriate to children's nutrition needs.

Menu planners should consider the meal pattern requirements and recommendations below when planning CACFP menus. For guidance on crediting foods, refer to the CSDE's [Crediting Summary Charts for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and visit the CSDE's [Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage and [Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

### Meats/meat alternates (MMA) component

- The MMA must be served in the main dish or the main dish and one other food item.
- The serving size of MMA refers to the edible portion of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish, e.g., cooked lean meat without bone, breading, binders, fillers, or other ingredients. Commercial processed products (such as combination entrees, deli meats, hot dogs, and sausages) require a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS) to document crediting information. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and [Crediting Deli Meats in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).
- Beans, peas, and lentils credit as either the MMA component or the vegetables component but one serving cannot credit as both meal components in the same meal. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).
- Nut and seed butters credit by volume (tablespoons) not weight. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).

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- Yogurt and soy yogurt cannot exceed 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (no more than 2 grams of added sugars per ounce). For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Yogurt in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).
- The USDA's [CACFP best practices](#) recommend serving only lean meats, nuts, and beans, peas, and lentils; limiting processed meats to one serving per week; and serving only low-fat or reduced-fat natural cheese.

For more information, visit the "[Meats and Meat Alternates](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.

## Fruits component and vegetables component

- Vegetables may substitute for the entire fruits component at any lunch or supper. The two vegetable servings must be different kinds.
- Dried fruits credit as twice the volume served. For example,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of raisins credits as  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of the fruits component.
- Raw leafy greens such as lettuce or spinach credit as half the volume served. For example,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of lettuce credits as  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the vegetables component.
- Pasteurized full-strength juice credits as either the vegetables component or fruits component at only one meal or snack per day. The juice limit includes fruit and vegetable juice, frozen pops made from 100 percent juice, and pureed fruits and vegetables in smoothies. Before planning juice at snack, make sure that the other daily meals and snacks do not contain juice. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Crediting Juices in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and [Crediting Smoothies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).
- The USDA's [CACFP best practices](#) recommend serving whole fruits (fresh, frozen, canned, and dried) more often than juice.

For more information, visit the "[Fruits](#)" section and the "[Vegetables](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.

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## Grains component

- At least one serving of grains per day must be whole grain-rich (WGR). The USDA's [CACFP best practices](#) recommend at least two servings of WGR grains per day. To meet the CACFP WGR criteria, foods must contain at least 50 percent whole grains and the remaining grain ingredients must be enriched, bran, or germ. For more information, refer to the CSDE's [Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and visit "[Whole Grain-rich Requirement](#)" in the "Grains" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.
- To credit as the required oz eq, the serving of grain products and recipes must provide either: 1) the required serving weight (groups A-E) or volume (groups H-I) in the USDA's Exhibit A chart (refer to the CSDE's resources, [Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and [How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)); or 2) the minimum creditable grains per serving (refer to the CSDE's resources, [Calculation Methods for Grains Ounce Equivalents for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and [When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)). For more information, visit "[Serving Requirements](#)" in the "Grains" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.
- Grain-based desserts do not credit. Examples include cookies, piecrusts in sweet pies, doughnuts, cereal bars, granola bars, sweet rolls, pastries, toaster pastries, cake, and brownies. Sweet crackers (such as graham crackers and animal crackers) are allowed but the CSDE recommends limiting them to no more than twice per week between all meals and snacks. For more information, visit the USDA's [Grain-based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage,
- Breakfast cereals must be WGR, enriched, or fortified and cannot exceed 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), [Worksheet for Crediting Cooked Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP](#), and [Worksheet for Crediting Ready-to-eat \(RTE\) Breakfast Cereals in the CACFP](#).

For more information, visit the "[Grains](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Milk component

- The CACFP meal patterns for ages 3-5 require unflavored low-fat (1%) or fat-free milk.

For more information, visit the [“Milk”](#) section of the CSDE’s Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage.

## Noncreditable foods

Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that do not count toward the meal components for reimbursable meals and snacks in the CACFP meal patterns. They include:

- foods and beverages served in amounts too small to credit, i.e., less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz eq for the grains component and MMA component and less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup for the fruits component and vegetables component; and
- foods and beverages that do not belong to any meal component, such as potato chips, pudding, ice cream, gelatin, cream cheese, bacon, condiments (e.g., syrup, jam, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and butter), and water.

CACFP facilities may serve certain noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability of meals and snacks, and satisfy appetites. Examples include maple syrup on pancakes, salad dressing on tossed greens, and condiments such as ketchup or mustard on sandwiches and other entrees.

CACFP funds cannot be used to purchase noncreditable foods, except for condiments served with creditable foods, and herbs and spices used to prepare and enhance the flavor of meals. For example, CACFP funds cannot be used to purchase grain-based desserts, gelatin, pudding, or canned cream soups. For more information, refer to the CSDE’s resource, [Noncreditable Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Required Crediting Documentation

CACFP facilities must be able to document that CACFP menus provide the minimum portion of each required meal component. Menu planners must use the USDA's [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (FBG) to determine how foods credit and the amount that provides the required meal pattern serving.

Commercial processed foods not listed in the FBG require a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS) to document crediting information. The USDA requires that CACFP facilities must verify PFS forms for accuracy prior to purchasing, serving, and claiming the product in reimbursable meals and snacks. For information on crediting documentation for processed foods, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Using Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labels in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), [Using Product Formulation Statements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).

Foods made from scratch require a recipe that documents the crediting information per serving. The USDA recommends using standardized recipes because they ensure accurate meal component contributions and document that menus meet the meal pattern requirements. The USDA defines a standardized recipe as one that has been tried, adapted, and retried at least three times and has been found to produce the same good results and yield every time when the exact procedures are used with the same type of equipment and the same quantity and quality of ingredients.

For information on standardized recipes, refer to the Institute of Child Nutrition's [Recipe Standardization Guide for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and visit the "[Standardized Recipes](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs webpage.

Additional guidance is available on the CSDE's [Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Training on the requirements for CN labels and PFS forms is available in Module 8: Meal Pattern Documentation for Crediting Commercial Processed Products, of the CSDE's training program, [What's in a Meal: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs](#).

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Sample Lunch and Supper Menus

This section contains six sample hot lunch and supper menus. The servings in each menu provide at least the minimum requirements of the CACFP meal patterns for children and are indicated after each menu item. Servings may be adjusted as appropriate for other ages.

Notes for the numbers indicated after some menu items are located at the end of the sample menus (refer to "[Menu Planning Notes](#)" in this document).

The CSDE's sample menus are intended for informational purposes and do not guarantee compliance with the CACFP meal patterns for children. Crediting information for local child care menus will vary depending on the types of foods purchased by the CACFP facility, and the recipes and preparation techniques used by CACFP staff. CACFP facilities are responsible for ensuring that their menus meet the CACFP meal patterns for children and maintaining appropriate crediting documentation on file (refer to "[Required Crediting Documentation](#)" in this document).

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 1

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Macaroni and cheese</i> <sup>1</sup>:<br/>Cheddar cheese, 1½ ounces<br/>Enriched macaroni, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Tossed salad</i>:<br/>Lettuce, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> cup <sup>2</sup><br/>Tomatoes and carrots, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Low-fat Italian dressing, 2 teaspoons</li> <li>• Orange slices, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>None</p> <p>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 2

- |   |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Baked ham, 2 ounces <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Whole-wheat roll <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Mashed sweet potato, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Steamed broccoli, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup <b>Vegetable substitution</b></li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roasted herbed chicken, 1½ ounces</li> <li>• Brown rice <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Green beans, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roasted red potatoes, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Mixed berries, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 1, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 4

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- Black bean soup,  $\frac{3}{8}$  cup beans <sup>1</sup>
- Whole-grain crackers **WGR**,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce
- Spinach salad,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup <sup>2</sup>
- Low-fat salad dressing, 2 teaspoons
- Mandarin oranges,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup
- Mango slices,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup  
 MMA component, 1½ oz eq  
 Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
 Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
 None  
 Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
 Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup

### Day 5

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- Hamburger, 1½ ounces cooked  
 Whole-wheat bun **WGR**,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
 Ketchup or mustard, 2 teaspoons
- Mixed vegetables,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup
- Sliced cantaloupe,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup  
 MMA component, 1½ oz eq  
 Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
 None  
 Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
 Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 2

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Taco salad:</i><br/>Seasoned ground beef, 1½ ounces cooked<br/>Shredded cheese, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> ounce<br/>Shredded lettuce, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> cup <sup>2</sup><br/>Corn niblets, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Whole-corn tortilla <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Pineapple chunks, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>MMA component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 2

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Toasted cheese sandwich:</i><br/>American cheese, 1½ ounces<br/>Whole-wheat bread <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Vegetable soup, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup vegetables <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Roasted kale, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Sliced kiwi, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1 oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Vegetable chili:</i><br/>Black beans and kidney beans, <math>\frac{3}{8}</math> cup<br/>Tomato sauce, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Enriched cornbread, 1 ounce</li> <li>• Baked sweet potato wedges, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Watermelon chunks, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 2, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 4

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- Baked chicken, 1½ ounces
- Herbed quinoa **WGR**,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup
- Mashed butternut squash,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup
- Snap peas,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup **Vegetable substitution**

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup  
 MMA component, 1½ oz eq  
 Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
 Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
 Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

### Day 5

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- Crunchy coated baked fish, 1½ ounces fish<sup>1</sup>
- Enriched couscous,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup
- Steamed broccoli florets,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup
- Mashed butternut squash,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
**Vegetable substitution**

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup  
 MMA component, 1½ oz eq  
 Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
 Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
 Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 3

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Cheese quesadilla triangles</i>:<br/>Monterey jack cheese, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces<br/>Whole-wheat tortilla <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Vegetable salsa, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Mandarin oranges, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 2

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roast beef, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces</li> <li>• Mashed potatoes, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Gravy, 1 tablespoon</li> <li>• Steamed carrots, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Enriched golden cornbread, 1 ounce</li> <li>• Sliced peaches, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>None<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Lentil soup, <math>\frac{3}{8}</math> cup lentils <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Red and green pepper strips, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Whole-grain crackers <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Diced nectarines, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 4

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Chicken veggie stir-fry</i> <sup>1</sup>:<br/>Cooked chicken, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces<br/>Carrots, celery, peppers, and broccoli, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Brown rice <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Pineapple tidbits, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 3, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 5

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Spaghetti with meat sauce</i><sup>1</sup>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooked ground beef, 1½ ounces</li> <li>Tomato sauce, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>Whole-wheat spaghetti <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>Grated parmesan cheese, 2 teaspoons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cucumber-tomato salad, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Sliced fresh pears, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>MMA component, 1½ oz eq</li> <li>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>None (additional food)</li> <li>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 4

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Toasted ham and cheese sandwich:</i><br/>Ham, 1 ounce <sup>3</sup><br/>Cheese, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> ounce<br/>Whole-wheat bread <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Sweet potato wedges, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Sliced kiwi, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> oz eq<br/>MMA component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
|--|---|

### Day 2

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Chicken enchilada</i> <sup>1</sup>:<br/>Cooked chicken, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces<br/>Cheddar cheese, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> ounce<br/>Whole-corn tortilla <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Enriched Spanish rice, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Mashed avocado, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Vegetable salsa, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Fruit salad, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>MMA component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Broccoli quiche</i> <sup>1</sup>:<br/>Egg, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> large<br/>Swiss cheese, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce<br/>Broccoli, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Enriched pie crust, 0.6 ounce</li> <li>• Sliced strawberries, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1 oz eq<br/>MMA component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 4, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 4

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roast turkey, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces</li> <li>• Stuffing: Whole-grain bread <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Green peas, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Mashed potatoes, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup <b>Vegetable substitution</b></li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 5

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>English muffin pizza</i> <sup>1</sup>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-fat mozzarella cheese, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces</li> <li>Pizza sauce, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>Whole-grain English muffin <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Salad greens, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> cup <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Salad dressing, 2 teaspoons</li> <li>• Slice green grapes, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1<math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</p> <p>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>None</p> <p>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 5

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Oven-fried chicken, 1½ ounces chicken</li> <li>• Quinoa pilaf <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roasted rosemary potatoes, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Green peas, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup <b>Vegetable substitution</b></li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup<br/> MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/> Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/> Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 2

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Red beans and rice</i> <sup>1</sup>:<br/>Red beans, <math>\frac{3}{8}</math> cup<br/>Enriched white rice, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Mixed garden salad</i>:<br/>Lettuce, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> cup <sup>2</sup><br/>Carrots, tomatoes, and cucumbers, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Italian dressing, 2 teaspoons</li> <li>• Sliced mangos, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup<br/><br/> MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/> Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/><br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/> None<br/> Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Meatloaf, 1½ ounces cooked beef <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Enriched egg noodles, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Orange-glazed carrots, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Green beans, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Red apple slices, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup<br/> MMA component, 1½ oz eq <sup>1</sup><br/> Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/> Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 4

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Barbecued pork, 1½ ounces cooked pork</li> <li>• Toasted whole-wheat bun <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>• Snap peas, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Corn niblets, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>• Sliced green grapes, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup<br/> MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/> Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/> Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/> Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 5, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 5

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Fish taco</i> <sup>1</sup>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooked fish, 1½ ounces</li> <li>Shredded cheese, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> ounce</li> <li>Whole-corn tortilla <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> <li>Shredded lettuce, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup <sup>2</sup></li> <li>Diced tomatoes, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fresh plum, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq<br/>MMA component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> oz eq<br/>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup<br/>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 6

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 1

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Beef stew</i> <sup>1</sup>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooked beef, 1½ ounces</li> <li>Carrots, potatoes, and peas, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brown rice <b>WGR</b>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Applesauce, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 2

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Barbecue chicken, 1½ ounces</li> <li>• Bulgar pilaf, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Roasted zucchini and summer squash, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• Fresh peach slices, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq</p> <p>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>Fruits component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> |
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### Day 3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unflavored low-fat milk, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</li> <li>• <i>Veggie pizza</i> <sup>1</sup>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mozzarella cheese, 1½ ounces</li> <li>Pizza sauce, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>Tomatoes, green peppers, and mushrooms, <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> cup</li> <li>Enriched pizza crust, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ounce</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mixed baby greens, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> cup <sup>2</sup> <b>Vegetable substitution</b></li> <li>• Salad dressing, 2 teaspoons</li> </ul> | <p>Milk component, <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>MMA component, 1½ oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>Grains component, <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> oz eq</p> <p>Vegetables component, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup</p> <p>None</p> |
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# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Week 6, continued

## Meal Pattern Contribution

### Day 4

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- *Tuna noodle casserole* <sup>1</sup>:  
Tuna fish,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces  
Enriched egg noodles,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
Peas and carrots,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup
- Steamed broccoli,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup
- Watermelon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup

MMA component,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

### Day 5

- Unflavored low-fat milk,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup
- *Turkey sloppy joe* <sup>1</sup>:  
Cooked ground turkey,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces  
Tomato sauce,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
Toasted whole-wheat bun **WGR**,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce
- Red cabbage slaw,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup cabbage and carrots
- Steamed edamame,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup
- Honeydew melon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

Milk component,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup

MMA component,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup  
Grains component,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz eq  
Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
Vegetables component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup  
Fruits component,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

## Menu Planning Notes

- <sup>1</sup> The meal pattern contribution per serving must be documented with a Child Nutrition (CN) label or PFS for commercial products and a recipe for foods made from scratch. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Using Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labels in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) and [Using Product Formulation Statements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), and visit the "[Standardized Recipes](#)" section of the CSDE's Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs webpage.
- <sup>2</sup> Raw leafy greens credit as half the volume served. One-eighth cup (2 tablespoons) is the minimum creditable amount and credits as 1 tablespoon of the vegetables component.
- <sup>3</sup> The oz eq of MMA per serving is different for each type of deli meat. This meal pattern contribution is an example. CACFP sponsors must determine the product's oz eq of MMA per serving based on the USDA's [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (if the deli meat is listed) or the manufacturer's specific crediting documentation for each product. Deli meats with added liquids, binders, or extenders require a PFS to credit toward the MMA component. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Deli Meats in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).

## Resources

[Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-documentation-for-the-child-nutrition-programs>

[Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/crediting-foods-in-the-child-and-adult-care-food-program>

[Crediting Summary Charts for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/crediting/crediting\\_summary\\_charts\\_cacfp.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/crediting/crediting_summary_charts_cacfp.pdf)

[Cycle Menus for Child Care: Preschoolers](#) (Institute of Child Nutrition):

<https://theicn.org/resources/1575/cycle-menus-for-child-care-preschoolers/118740/cycle-menus-for-child-care-preschoolers.pdf>

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

[Lunch and Supper](#) (“Menu Planning” section of CSDE’s Meal Patterns for the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-for-the-child-and-adult-care-food-program/menu-planning#LunchSupper>

[Meal Patterns for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-for-the-child-and-adult-care-food-program>

[Menu Planning](#) (CSDE’s Meal Patterns for the Child and Adult Care Food Program webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/meal-patterns-for-the-child-and-adult-care-food-program/menu-planning>

[Menu Planning Basics: A Guide for CACFP Operators in Child Care](#) (Institute of Child Nutrition):

<https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/menu-planning-basics-cacfp>

[Recipes for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (CSDE’s Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/menu-planning/recipes-for-child-nutrition-programs>

[Resources for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns](#) (CSDE):

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/mealpattern/resources\\_cacfp\\_meal\\_patterns.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/mealpattern/resources_cacfp_meal_patterns.pdf)

# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

For more information, visit the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage and [Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) webpage or contact the [CACFP staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/mealpattern/menu\\_cacfp\\_lunch\\_supper\\_hot.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/mealpattern/menu_cacfp_lunch_supper_hot.pdf).



# Sample Hot Lunch and Supper Menus for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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