



PROVIDERS FOOD PROGRAM FEBRUARY 2011



INFANT MENUS

Over the past few months we have seen some issues appearing on several infant that we would like to readdress. Some providers are listing cheerios at snack. Please remember, that Cheerios is an adult cereal which cannot be claimed on infant menus. When a child is 8 months old and developmentally ready, you can offer that child cracker, bagels, or other bread items at snack time. The first ingredient must be whole grain or enriched meal or flour.

Commercial combination meals are not creditable. For example, turkey and rice, macaroni & cheese, chicken & noodles, etc. Combination dinners generally have less nutritional value by weight than single-ingredient baby food. Commercial baby food with meat or poultry as the first ingredient in the ingredient listing are reimbursable as a meat/meat alternate in the Infant Meal Pattern. Plain meat or poultry generally contains more meat or poultry (and more protein and iron) ounce for ounce than combination baby food. Plain meats can be mixed with plain vegetables or fruits to serve to a baby as some babies will accept meat better when mixed.

When you have two infants the same age group, food must be recorded separately for both infants. You can do this a few different ways. You can write both food items right on your bubble menus. We just ask that you indicate which food was for what child. Another option is a separate form that we can send you that allows you to record both infant's foods on 1 piece of paper. You will still bubble the attendance on the menus. Last you can record food for one infant on the menu and the 2nd infant on a separate piece of paper. Just remember to record all the attendance on the menus. Please do not start recording infant food on the menus until the child is consistently eating it every day. Once you start recording food, you must continue to write it.

NOT HOME LINE

Are you planning a vacation, field trip, or closing just for a day. Please leave a message on our not home line. This will help the monitor plan her visits and not show up to find no one home. The direct number is::

781-287-1464

SNOW DAYS AND NO SCHOOL DAYS

This is a reminder if your school is closed for a full day or even $\frac{1}{2}$ day, the office needs to know this information so you can be reimbursed for school age children present at am snack or lunch.

For providers using bubble menus, please provide that information on your Claim Information Sheet "CIF". There is space at the bottom of the CIF that allows you address this.

For providers that use our minute menu system. When you record your meal and attendance, you will see two columns next to your attendance column. One is "school out" and the other is "child sick". When any school age child is present at am snack or lunch you need to click the appropriate box next to the child's name. This will allow you to be reimbursed. If we are made aware of a school being out we do try and enter that information into our system ahead of time. So occasionally you will school out already checked off, but please keep us informed.

Please remember that Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education has enforced that no grapes, raisins, peanut butter, nuts, or dried fruits be served to children under the age of 3. We are having issues where these items are being served. When filling in your menus please let us know what food the younger children were served. When a menu is written with one of these foods but does not indicate which child/children were served the food, it can lead to a possible deduction. To avoid any deductions in the future, we are asking that you list the foods that you served to the younger children on your menus.