

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

PROVIDERS FOOD PROGRAM

November 2009

Sometimes we seem to repeat things over and over and we apologize. Unfortunately, we see the same errors and problems continuing on the menus. In this newsletter we will be focusing on the regulations and any new changes that we have previously addressed.

CHANGES IN THE CREDITABLE FOODS

We have received word from the Department of Education that hotdogs, grapes, nuts and nut butter are not acceptable for children under the age of 3 due to the possibility of choking and/or allergies. If you serve any of these items to children in your day care older than 3, you need to offer a different meat/meat alternate to the younger children such as cheese, yogurt, or another choice in the meat/meat alternate category. We realize at the present time the providers that submit their menus online are not able to add another meat option. This will be changing soon.

CHILDRENS' ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES

When sending in a child's enrollment please take the time to review it for accuracy. Talk to the parents ahead of time and ask them what is the earliest they might drop off or the latest they might pick up. Have them check off every meal or snack they might possibly ever participate in. This allows you the flexibility of what meals or snacks you are able to claim.

Also if a child is part-time but you are available to watch him/her on other days, the enrollment should show this along with the "days varies" checked off. You will be disallowed for meals or snacks that do not match the child's enrollment.

If you have an assistant we need a copy of her/his license if you haven't already supplied one. Don't forget to send us a new copy when he/she renews their license.

If you watch any children on a major holiday we need a note from the child's parent verifying this information before we can reimburse you for those meals.

INFANT MENUS

➡ If you have an infant in your care please pay close attention. ⬅

Combination meals (chicken & rice, chicken noodle, macaroni and cheese etc.) are **NOT** creditable. Meats/Meat alternates include any infant fortified cereal and "meat only products" as well as cheese, eggs and fish.

Adult cereal is not creditable for infant snack. This includes **Cheerios**. You can serve them crackers, toast, bagels as well as baby teething biscuits, If you have more than 1 infant in the same age category, we need 2 separate food menus. Please keep all the attendance on 1 menu. Call the office for additional menu forms.

Do not list any food for an infant between the ages of 0-7 months until they are eating that food item on a consistent basis.



Reminder....Dinner cannot be served before 4:30 pm



In January 2010 EEC will be implementing new regulations. They are presently having meetings across the state to explain the new regulations. For further information log onto their website at: <http://www.eec.state.ma.us/>

If you haven't done so already, you should sign up to receive EEC's electronic updates. You can do this directly from their web site.

At your next home visit you will be receiving the training for 2010. The calendar and new food program folder will be passed out as well..

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES.....
Nov. 11, 26th and 27th
Dec. 24, 2009 through January 1, 2010
If you will not be home for a meal or snack or will be closed for vacation, please leave a message on our "closed" line
781-287-1464