



Perspectives

Horizons Unlimited Inc.—Sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Very Important Program Pointers

Volume 21 Issue 229
March 2015

Claim Submission and Reimbursement:

- Submit claims by the 3rd of the following month. (Submit the March claim by April 3rd)
- The average family claim takes 3 stamps. Please be sure to place enough postage on your claim!
- Reimbursement for the most current claim is paid the first Monday of every month. (February will be paid the first Monday of April)
- A late claim or any adjustments are paid the second Monday of the month. (February late claims or adjustments will be paid the second Monday of May)

A Minute Menu feature to let us know your schedule: Provider Calendar

- ◆ Let us know your schedule right from Minute Menu. This is a quick and easy way to let us know your vacation days and other planned days off.
- ◆ Open the Minute Menu program and click on the “Tools” tab on the top tool bar. This will open a drop down window. From here select “Manage Calendar”.
- ◆ Please use this feature when you are giving us at least 24 hours notice of your closing. If the closing is last minute please call or email.

End of the Year Statements and Tax Information:

The end of year statement for manual claimers was mailed in January—If you did not receive this important information please let us know.

Minute Menu users can find the important tax information by selecting: Review Claims > Tax report.

Inside this issue:

Very Important Program Pointers	1
Nutrition Article Soup	2

Why can't you iron a four leaf clover?

Because you shouldn't press your luck.

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?

Because their already wearing green!

What type of bow cannot be tied?

A rain-bow!

IS IT CREDITABLE? Shelf Stable/Dried Meat

Foods that can be safely stored at room temperature, or "on the shelf," are called "shelf stable."

Shelf-stable, dry, or semi-dry, meat snacks (jerky type products) are NOT creditable on the Food Program.

USDA provided this information: Non-creditable meat snacks include but are not limited to the following products: smoked snack sticks made with beef and chicken; summer sausage; pepperoni sticks; meat, poultry, or seafood jerky such as beef jerky, turkey jerky, and salmon jerky; and meat or poultry nuggets (shelf-stable, non-breaded, dried meat or poultry snack made similar to jerky) such as turkey nuggets.





NUTRITION Note

Growing Green Nutrition with New Proposed Meal Pattern

By Kristen Frie RD

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) has released a proposed new meal pattern for childcare. The proposed rule, recommends meals served to children in childcare settings should include a larger variety of fruits and vegetables, more whole grains, and less sugar and fat. The reasoning behind this new meal pattern proposal is to assist in the battle of the current childhood obesity crisis.

USDA is seeking public comment on this proposed new meal pattern so if you would like your voice to be heard please visit www.regulations.gov (type in "Child and Adult Care Food Program"). If this proposal goes into action, it would be considered the first major update of CACFP meal patterns since the program started in 1968.

The goal of this new meal pattern is to use science-based nutrition standards to ensure children have access to healthy, balanced meals throughout the day. It is designed so that the cost for providers would not increase. Agriculture Undersecretary Kevin Concannon said, "Providing children access to nutritious food early in life helps instill healthy habits that can serve as a foundation for a lifetime of healthy choices. Not only does this program ensure nutritious meals for children, it also enables child care providers to sustain their businesses and provide affordable care to low income families."

While reflecting on these proposed new meal patterns, consider how you can incorporate more GREEN foods in your March menus. March is the month of green, with St. Patrick's Day looming at the midpoint of the month, and the planting season right around the corner. Make healthy food fun for the children, by telling stories surrounding the vegetable, playing games, creating silly vegetable names, or doing riddles. Here are some to get your vegetable juices flowing:

Riddle: Knock, knock, who's there? *Lettuce.* Lettuce who? *Lettuce in and you'll find out.*

Riddle: What do you call an angry pea? *A grump-pea.*

Silly Name: Jack and the Beanstalk string green beans

Silly Name: Bumpy big green cucumbers

Silly Name: Baby broccoli trees

Activity: Make rose artwork using bunches of celery

Game: Play hide-and-seek with vegetables (each child hides with a vegetable, and then the seeker calls out a color of vegetable to find and then finds a child with that colored vegetable)



CACFP -
where healthy eating
becomes a habit.

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