# Very Important Program Pointers'

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### Infant Feeding Guidelines

We have noticed several enrollments coming into the office for infants and thought this would be a good time to review the CACFP guidelines for feeding infants.

Cereals served to infants must be Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal: Begin serving when developmentally ready, or at 8 months - whichever comes first.

Iron-fortified infant *rice* cereal is recommended as baby's 1<sup>st</sup> cereal because it:

- Is easily digested and least likely to cause an allergic reaction.
- Iron-Fortified Oat and Barley infant cereal can be added at 1-week intervals after rice cereal has been successfully tolerated.
- Wait to serve Iron Fortified Infant Wheat cereal until babies are 8 months old. Wheat is harder to digest and can cause a reaction in some infants.
- Iron-Fortified Mixed-Grain cereals can be introduced after the infant has been exposed to and has tolerated each grain separately.

#### These cereals are <u>not reimbursable</u> in the Infant Meal Pattern:

- ⇒ Jarred "wet" infant cereals.
- ⇒ Iron-fortified dry infant cereals containing fruit such as Iron-Fortified Rice Cereal with Bananas.
- ⇒ Cereals designed for older children and adults.

Examples would be oatmeal, grits, farina and adult dry cereals such as Cheerios; although these are not reimbursable as a substitute for infant cereal, they can be fed as additional foods when the child is developmentally ready.

## Infant Fruits and Vegetables: Begin serving when developmentally ready or at 8 months whichever comes first.

- A fruit or vegetable must be the first ingredient listed on the label.
- Multiple fruits and/or vegetables can be listed on the ingredient list.
- Please verify that the infant has been exposed to the fruits and veggies you
  offer at home first to avoid allergic reactions and intolerance.

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"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

- Mother Teresa



### Infant Feeding Guidelines cont.

### These commercially prepared baby foods are <u>not reimbursable</u> in the Infant Meal Pattern:

- ⇒ First ingredient on the list is water.
- ⇒ Fruits and vegetables with yogurt or labeled as desserts.
- ⇒ Fruits and vegetables containing meats or grains.
- ⇒ Fruits and vegetables with DHA.

These often contain added ingredients such as egg yolk or fish oils.

## Infant Meats and Proteins: Begin serving when developmentally ready or at 8 months - whichever comes first.

- Commercially prepared, single ingredient baby food meats, are reimbursable as a meal component.
- Introduce cooked egg yolk after meats have been accepted.

Avoid serving whole egg or egg whites because they can cause allergic reactions and intolerances in some infants

- Cheese may be offered to infants. Mild cheddar, mozzarella, Colby and cottage cheese are good choices.
  - Do not feed chunks of cheese. This can cause choking.
- Fin-Fish is creditable for infants.

Check to ensure no bones are in the fish.

• Cooked dry beans or dry peas, such as kidney beans, lima beans, pinto beans, or chick peas may be offered as an infant protein.

Serve beans/peas mashed or pureed as the whole bean/pea is a choking hazard.

#### These meats and proteins that are <u>not reimbursable</u> in the Infant Meal Pattern:

- ⇒ Peanut Butter and other not or seed butters
- ⇒ Yogurt
- ⇒ Commercially prepared combination food dinners

For example Beef Stew or Chicken Dinner with Veggies and Rice

- ⇒ Commercial fish sticks or fillets
- ⇒ Hotdogs and other processed meats. For example sausage and lunch meats
- ⇒ Shell fish such as shrimp



## **FEBRUARY LUNCH IDEAS**

## VISIT WWW.HORIZONSUNLIMITED.ORG FOR MORE MENU IDEAS!

1% Milk

**Cottage Cheese** 

\*Tomato Mac and Cheese

**Pineapple** 

**WW** pasta

1% Milk

**Refried Beans** 

Lettuce/ Tomatoes

Oranges

Tortilla Wrap

1% Milk

**Turkey** 

Carrots

**Papaya** 

Whole Grain Stuffing

1% Milk

**Pulled Pork** 

Green Beans

**A**pple

WW Bun

1% Milk

**Baked Fish** 

Cole Slaw

**Grapes** 

Rye Bread

## \*Tomato Mac and Cheese (just the right color for Valentine's Day)

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 can condensed cheddar cheese soup
- 1 cup of spaghetti sauce
- 1/3 cup milk
- 4 cups cooked whole wheat elbow pasta

Grated parmesan cheese

Credit as a grain.



## Valentines Day Snack Ideas

Have a dipping party! What fun.





**Fruit Smoothies** 

Fruit and Cheese Kabobs





Sweetheart Krispie Treats

# word search Valentines

HEART CARDS
CUPID CANDY
KISS FLOWERS
HUG PARTIES
LOVE VALENTINES
PINK SWEETHEART
KINDNESS RED

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Sherwood
Sherwood who?
Sherwood like to be
your valentine!



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С	E	Α	F	L	0	W	E	R	S	R	Ζ

# Let's Get Moving!

## **Valentines Day Games**

**Cupid Says** 

Pin the Heart on the Cupid

Heart - Heart - Hug (Duck Duck Goose)

Valentine Fishing: Cut out fish shapes and have children decorate. Write an action on the back of each fish. Put a magnet on the nose of each fish.



Scatter the fish on the floor and give the children a fishing pole (dowel stick with sting and magnet). When they catch a fish they do the action.



where healthy eating becomes a habit.

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