

CACFP INFANT FEEDING PREFERENCE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This childcare provider participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and receives USDA reimbursement for serving nutritious meals to infants according to program requirements. Participation in this program requires childcare providers to follow specific meal patterns according to the age of the infant.

If your child is exclusively breastfed, childcare providers participating in the CACFP can feed your infant the breast milk you supply and meet the meal pattern requirements. Breastfeeding is widely recognized as the best source of nutrition for infants.

The Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that “adults/caregivers, who work with infants and their families, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and continuation of breastfeeding in conjunction with complementary foods for 1 year or more, and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) encourages child care provider’s to dedicate a space for mothers to breast feed their infants on site.”

Childcare providers participating in the CACFP **are required** to offer at least one infant formula for infants who are enrolled for childcare. You may decline the infant formula offered, and supply breast milk and/or your own preferred infant formula.

Additionally, when you determine in consultation with your physician that your child is developmentally ready, the childcare provider will also be **required** to offer infant cereal and other foods. As with infant formula, you can decline the infant cereal and other foods offered and provide those items to your childcare provider. It is important to note that your childcare provider will not receive reimbursement for meals that contain more than one parent provided component. Speak to your childcare provider to understand what components are required for your infant’s meal and the exceptions made for infants with disabilities, so that your infant receives the most nutritious meal possible.

It is very important that you indicate your preferences on the form that follows so we can honor the nutrition choices you have made for your family. Please complete the information below to designate your preference for infant formula, infant cereal and other foods.



Center Name _____ Code _____

This childcare provider offers the following infant formula(s) _____

Infant's Name _____ Infant's Date of Birth _____

Birth through 5 months

**A. Please mark your preference
(Choose only one – if baby is getting any formula, choose 2 or 3)**

- 1. Serve only expressed breast milk to my infant.
- 2. I want the childcare provider to provide the infant formula it offers for my infant.
- 3. I will bring the infant formula for my infant. Please list the kind of infant formula you will bring:

Parent's (or guardian's) Signature: _____

Date of Signature: ____/____/____

6-11 months

**B. Please mark your preference
(choose only one – if baby is getting any formula, choose 2 or 3)**

- 1. Serve only expressed breast milk to my infant.
- 2. I want the childcare provider to provide the infant formula it offers for my infant.
- 3. I will bring the infant formula for my infant. Please list the kind of infant formula you will bring:

**C. Please mark your preference
(choose only one – update each month until baby is ready for solid foods)**

- 1. My child is developmentally ready for solid foods. I want the childcare provider to provide the infant cereal and other foods for my infant.
- 2. My child is developmentally ready for solids. I will bring the infant cereal and/or other foods for my infant.
- 3. My child is NOT developmentally ready for solid foods. I will inform the provider when and designate the solid food(s) to be introduced to my infant at that time.

Parent's (or guardian's) Signature: _____

Date of Signature: ____/____/____

1. This form must be kept on file for each infant enrolled for childcare.
2. This form must be kept current and accurate for each infant enrolled for childcare until the infant reaches one year of age.
3. If the mother breast-feeds her child on site, the meal may be claimed for reimbursement.
4. Parents can provide one (1) meal component and the site is still allowed to claim meals and snacks for reimbursement.
5. If the parent provides two (2) or more components, the meals and snacks may NOT be claimed for reimbursement.
6. Sites must have the parent update this form when the child turns 6 months of age.
7. Sites must submit the updated form to FP Assistance in order to claim 6-11 month meals.