Chart 4C: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Meal Pattern for Children and Adults: Snacks

Snack Meal Pattern for Children and Adults

Meal Components and Food Items ¹ Select two of the five components for a reimbursable snack		Minimum Quantities				
		Ages 1–2	Ages 3–5	Ages 6–12	Ages 13–18 ²	Adult Participants
Fluid Milk ³		4 fluid ounces ³	4 fluid ounces ⁴	8 fluid ounces ⁵	8 fluid ounces ⁵	8 fluid ounces ⁶
Meats/Meat Alternates ⁷	Lean meat, poultry, or fish	½ ounce equivalent	½ ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent
	Tofu, soy products, or alternate protein products ⁴	½ ounce equivalent	½ ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent
	Cheese	½ ounce equivalent	½ ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent
	Large egg	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
	Cooked dry beans, peas, or lentils	⅓ cup	⅓ cup	¼ cup	¼ cup	1⁄4 cup
	Peanut butter or soy nut butter or other nut or seed butters	1 Tbsp	1 Tbsp	2 Tbsp	2 Tbsp	2 Tbsp
	Yogurt, plain or flavored unsweetened or sweetened ^{6,7}	2 ounces or ½ cup	2 ounces or ½ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup
	Peanuts, soy nuts, tree nuts, or seeds	½ ounce equivalent	½ ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent
Vegetables ⁸		½ cup	½ cup	³⁄₄ cup	¾ cup	½ cup
Fruits ⁸		½ cup	½ cup	³⁄₄ cup	³⁄₄ cup	½ cup
Grains (oz eq) ⁹		½ ounce equivalent	½ ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent	1 ounce equivalent

- 1 Must serve two of the five components for a reimbursable snack. Milk and juice may not be served as the only two items in a reimbursable snack.
- 2 At-risk afterschool programs and emergency shelters may need to serve larger portions to children ages 13 through 18 to meet their nutritional needs.
- 3 Must serve unflavored whole milk to children age 1.
- 4 Must serve unflavored milk to children 2 through 5 years old. The milk must be fat-free, skim, low-fat, or 1 percent or less.
- 5 May serve unflavored or flavored milk to children ages 6 and older. The milk must be fat-free, skim, low-fat, or 1 percent or less.
- 6 May serve unflavored or flavored milk to adults. The milk must be fat-free, skim, low-fat, or 1 percent or less. Yogurt may be offered in place of milk, once per day for adults. Yogurt may count as either a fluid milk substitute or as a meat alternate, but not both, in the same meal. Six ounces (by weight) or ¾ cup (by volume) of yogurt is the equivalent of 8 ounces of fluid milk.
- 7 Alternate protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A of 7 CFR Part 226. Effective through September 30, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces. Effective October 1, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams of added sugars per ounce). Information on crediting meats/meat alternates may be found in FNS guidance.
- 8 Juice must be pasteurized. Full-strength juice may only be offered to meet the vegetable or fruit requirement at one meal or snack, per day.
- 9 Must serve at least one whole grain-rich serving, across all eating occasions, per day. Grain-based desserts may not be used to meet the grains requirement. Effective through September 30, 2025, breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of total sugars per dry ounce. Effective October 1, 2025, breakfast cereal must contain no more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce. Information on crediting grain items may be found in FNS guidance.