



Provider Appreciation Day is May 7th, 2021

In 1996 a group of volunteers in New Jersey created Provider Appreciation Day, which is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The intention of Provider Appreciation Day is to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. Support for this event has grown each year and recognition presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout the United States. In 2021, more than ever before, it is important to recognize the difficulties that providers have gone through during the pandemic.

Happy Mother's Day!

Sending our appreciation to all the mothers in our lives, particularly those who care for the children of other people in addition to their own. You are important, you are essential, you are loved beyond measure.

Mother's Day is May 9th

Reminder: Breakfast cereal must be low-sugar to be creditable for reimbursement.

A few options of Cereals that credit: Plain Kix, Berry Kix, Plain Cheerios, Berry Cheerios, Frosted Mini Wheats, Plain or Cinnamon Life, Wheaties, Total, Corn Flakes

In order to be part of a reimbursable breakfast, cereal must have no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.

Upcycle empty containers to create inexpensive plant holders

Tin cans, plastic yogurt tubs, milk jugs, juice bottles and whatever else you have in your recycling bin can be used as planters for spring flowers, herbs or even grass to create a fun, ongoing activity for the kiddos or as a simple gift they can give to mom.

The photos below can be your inspiration.



Have children make a face on an empty cup from yogurt or other food. Then help them plant some grass seed. As the grass grows the children can give the creation a haircut.

WIN A FREE TABLET!!!

If you have switched to online claiming as part of our contest, be sure to file your monthly food program claim by the 5th of each month in KidKare.

Contest Rules: Promotion runs January 1, 2021 through April 1, 2021 and is open to all actively claiming providers on Wildwood's food program. To be eligible, participants must switch to online claiming (or already claim online) using KidKare by April 1st AND submit at least two consecutive, monthly claims before the drawing date.

LIVE prize drawing will be held on Tuesday June 15, 2021!

Did you know that not all infant formulas are creditable on the food program?



In order to be creditable for reimbursement, infant formula must be Iron Fortified and approved by the USDA for Child Nutrition Programs based on the nutrient content for the specific brand and type of formula. Before a provider can be reimbursed for Infant Formula that does not meet the nutritional requirements for CACFP, Wildwood must have a Special Diet Statement on file for the infant. To verify whether a specific brand or type of formula is creditable, please call the office to double-check with our staff.





CORNER

CLAIMS

We want you to receive the most money possible each month. Claims Corner has useful reminders and hints to help you do just that.

- Reminder to mark your menus to show Whole Grain Rich food items. At least 1 whole Grain Rich food must be served each day. When WGR items are not marked, Wildwood must disallow the meal with the smallest financial impact that includes a bread/grain component.
- Reminder: All food program records must be kept for a minimum of three years and four months beyond the date of the records. This is a USDA requirement and has not changed.

***The last day we can receive original WY & CO March claims for processing is May 21, 2020.**

***The last day we can receive original WY & CO April claims for processing is June 25, 2020.**

Claims received on or before the 5th of the month are processed by the 10th. Reimbursement payments for on-time claims are made by check or electronic deposit after funds are received by Wildwood from CDPHE or WDE.

Pandemic Food Shortage?

If the grocery store does not have the correct fat content of milk or other food components available, add notes to your claim to document any food shortage items and list what was served instead of the required item. You may be reimbursed for the meals that otherwise would not be creditable if shortages are documented. If you have any questions about what details to include about food shortages, call the office staff before you submit your claim.

There is currently a meal pattern waiver in place from USDA.

Hints for Serving Combination Foods

Did you know that store-bought, combination foods require a Child Nutrition (CN) Label? It's true!

In order to determine whether a combination food is creditable and the required portion size to serve, providers must have a copy of the CN label on file for any combination foods on their menu. This includes many products, like breaded chicken nuggets, chicken strips, chicken or beef patties, corn dogs, breaded fish or fish sticks, meatballs, canned soup or chili, beef stew, pizza, burritos and many other foods that are commonly served to children.

The USDA is the agency that issues Child Nutrition Labels to food manufacturers when commercially produced combination foods meet the requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. It is important to note that the serving size listed on the regular Nutrition Facts Panel may not reflect the correct size for CACFP reimbursement. The Nutrition Panel shows the amount or serving size that is usually consumed, but that amount may not align with Child Nutrition Program Meal Pattern Requirements.

Many food manufacturers have stopped putting the CN label on the product packaging, so you may need to contact the company to ask for the CN label or look on the website of the manufacturer to determine whether the product you want to serve has a CN Label.

Although some food items have CN Labels, the portion size required may not be realistic for a child to consume or that the cost becomes a barrier to serving the item. An example of this is Fish sticks. The amount of creditable meat in many brands of fish stick is often so small that the portion size required is too much for a child to eat.

Combination foods must contain enough of each food component claimed to meet the minimum amount listed on the CACFP meal pattern for each child served.



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