

Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services	Policy
	MT CACFP 2001-5 Rev 4
	Section: All Institutions
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Subject: Infants
	Date Revised: 3/20/2014

INFANTS

This policy applies to facilities that serve infants.

Infant Milks

- Breastfeeding of infants is encouraged.
- Reimbursable meals for infants may contain either breast milk or iron-fortified infant formula or both.
- Per 7 CFR 226.20(b)(2), infant formula provided to infants from birth to one year of age must be iron-fortified. The label on the formula product must state “with iron” or “iron-fortified.”
- Infant milks may be supplied either by the parent or the day care facility.
- Facilities must offer at least one kind or brand of standard iron-fortified infant formula product. Parents can accept the kind of formula that the facility provides, or they may decline it and supply the facility with the kind of formula they want their infant to receive. In this case, the parents pay for the formula and provide it to the child care facility. The meal can still be claimed to the CACFP if the breast milk or infant formula is supplied by the parent.
- Whole milk is not allowed as infant milk for infants less than one year of age. For children 12-24 months old that have transitioned to milk, whole milk is recommended.

Infant Foods

- Infants can eat the same foods as children as long as the foods are developmentally appropriate-for-age for each infant and modified for safety to pick up, chew and swallow.
- Commercially prepared baby foods may be used but are not required, however; commercially prepared mixed or combination foods are not reimbursable in the infant meal pattern, as it is difficult to identify the required food components and prove that the amount of the food components in mixed infant foods meet the meal pattern requirement.
- Parents can accept the food the facility provides, or they may decline and provide their own food for their infant. However, a facility must supply or feed at least one of the infant meal components to claim that meal for reimbursement to the CACFP.

Infant Feeding Schedules

- Infants are fed according to the parent’s instructions and on demand.
- An *Infant Feeding Schedule* is a form provided by the child care licensing unit of the State agency, or a form that contains the same content including: the infant’s name, feeding instructions provided by the parent, and a parent signature and date. The form provides the necessary information from parents to instruct the child care staff on what, when, and how to feed their infant. The form also allows parents to communicate changes in diet and schedule for their infant on an ongoing basis.

- For all infants through 18 months of age, a current *Infant Feeding Schedule* is required and must be posted or present for daily use. The *Infant Feeding Schedule* can continue to be used until the time the parent requests the infant be served all foods from the regular menu.

Infant Feeding

- Refer to *Feeding Infants, FNS-258, A Guide for use in the Child Nutrition Programs*, available at the State agency and online at www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov
- Refer to the *MT Creditable Food Guide* online at www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov
- Refer to *Feeding With Love and Good Sense, The First 2 Years*, by Ellyn Satter, RD, 2013
- *Caring for Infants and Toddlers in Early Care and Education*, 2014

[Reference: www.ellynsatterinstitute.org]