

**Chapter DCF 250**  
**APPENDIX C**

**CACFP MEAL PATTERN REQUIREMENTS – BIRTH THROUGH 11 MONTHS**

**The infant meal pattern shall contain, as a minimum, each of the following components in the amounts indicated for the specific age group.**

The minimum quantity of food shall be provided to the infant, but may be served during a span of time consistent with the infant’s eating habits.

Birth Through 3 Months	4 Through 7 Months	8 Through 11 Months
<b>BREAKFAST</b>		
4– 6 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk <sup>5,6</sup>	4–8 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk <sup>5,6</sup> 0–3 T. infant cereal <sup>2</sup> (optional)	6–8 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> , breast milk <sup>5,6</sup> 2–4 T. infant cereal <sup>2</sup> 1–4 T. fruit and/or vegetable
<b>LUNCH OR SUPPER</b>		
4– 6 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk <sup>5,6</sup>	4–8 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk 0–3 T. infant cereal <sup>2</sup> (optional) 0–3 T. fruit and/or vegetable (optional)	6–8 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> , breast milk <sup>5,6</sup> 2–4 T. infant cereal <sup>2</sup> and/or 1–4 T. meat, fish, poultry, egg yolk, or cooked dry beans or peas, or <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> –2 oz. cheese or 1–4 oz. cottage cheese, cheese food, or cheese spread 1–4 T. fruit and/or vegetable
<b>SNACK</b>		
4– 6 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk <sup>5,6</sup>	4–6 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> or breast milk <sup>5,6</sup>	2–4 fl. oz. formula <sup>1</sup> , breast milk, or fruit juice <sup>3</sup> 0– <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> bread or 0–2 crackers (optional) <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Shall be iron–fortified infant formula.

<sup>2</sup> Shall be iron–fortified dry infant cereal.

<sup>3</sup> Shall be full–strength fruit juice.

<sup>4</sup> Shall be from whole–grain or enriched meal or flour.

<sup>5</sup> It is recommended that breast milk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months.

<sup>6</sup> For some breast–fed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breast milk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breast milk may be offered, with additional breast milk offered if the infant is still hungry.

**Required Guidelines for Infant Meal Pattern**

**Definition of Infant.** Any child less than 12 months of age.

**Definition of Infant Formula.** Infant formula defined by USDA is “any iron–fortified infant formula intended for dietary use as a sole source for food for normal healthy infants served in liquid state at manufacturer’s recommended dilution”.

**Infant Formula/Breast Milk.** The decision regarding feeding infants breast milk or the type of infant formula is one for the infant’s doctor and parents/guardian to make together.

**Definition of Optional.** Optional foods must be served as each infant becomes developmentally ready for the specified foods.