

Juice Products--Child Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition Program- - Meal Pattern for Ages Birth through 11 Months

Juice products do not qualify for reimbursement as the fruit/vegetable component for breakfast, lunch or supper. Only full strength fruit juice is reimbursable as a snack for infants ages 8 through 11 months in the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program infant meal pattern.

Child Nutrition Programs - Meal Pattern for Ages 1 Year through 4 Years and Grades K through 12

Full-strength fruit or vegetable juice may be used toward meeting the vegetable/fruit component of all meals served in the child nutrition programs when the following conditions are met:

1. In lunches and suppers, juice may be used to meet no more than one-half of the minimum quantity requirements for the age or grade group being served.
2. As a supplemental food in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program for Children, juice may not be served when milk is served as the only other component of the supplemental food pattern.

The following juice products may be used toward meeting the vegetable/fruit component when these conditions are met:

1. FULL-STRENGTH FRUIT OR VEGETABLE JUICE is an undiluted product obtained by extraction from sound fruit. It may be fresh, canned, frozen, or reconstituted from concentrate and may be served in either liquid or frozen state or as an ingredient in a recipe. Examples of full-strength fruit and vegetable juice are apple (including cider), grape, grapefruit, grapefruit-orange, lemon, lime, orange, pear-apple, pineapple, prune, tomato, tangerine, and vegetable.

The name of the full-strength fruit or vegetable juice as it appears on the label must include the word(s) "juice" or "full-strength juice" or "single strength juice" or "100 percent juice" or "reconstituted juice" or "juice from concentrate."

2. A JUICE DRINK is a product resembling 'juice which contains full-strength juice along with added water and possibly other ingredients such as sweeteners, spices, or flavorings. A juice drink may be canned, frozen, or reconstituted as from a frozen state or a drink base or as an ingredient in a recipe. Examples of juice drinks are apple juice drink, grape juice drink, orange juice drink, and pineapple-grapefruit drink. A juice drink

may be used toward meeting the vegetable/fruit component of the child nutrition programs under these conditions:

- a. It must contain a minimum of 50 percent full-strength juice. (Note: Nectars and some common juice drinks, such as lemonade and cranberry juice cocktail, do not contain sufficient quantities of full-strength juice to meet this criterion. Nectars do not commonly contain 50 percent juice and lemonade and cranberry juice cocktail require dilution beyond the 50 percent limit for palatability).
 - b. Only the full-strength juice portion of the juice drink may be counted toward meeting the vegetable/fruit component.
 - c. The name of the product as it appears on the label must contain words such as "juice drink" or "diluted juice beverage" and may indicate the percent full-strength juice in the product.
 - d. The label ingredient statement must list "juice," "full-strength juice," "single-strength juice," "reconstituted juice," "juice from concentrate," or "juice concentrate."
2. A JUICE CONCENTRATE may be used toward meeting the vegetable/fruit component of the child nutrition programs. When a juice concentrate or a juice drink concentrate is used in its reconstituted form, it is considered a full-strength juice or a juice drink, as appropriate, and is credited accordingly. When a juice concentrate is used in its concentrated form, it may be credited on a reconstituted basis; that is, credited as if it were reconstituted. For example, a gelatin product containing 1 tablespoon of orange juice concentrate per serving could receive 1/4 cup fruit/vegetable credit since the orange juice concentrate theoretically could be reconstituted in a ratio of 1 part concentrate to 3 parts water (1 tbsp concentrate + 3 Tbsp water = 4 Tbsp or 1/4 cup credit).

It is expected that program administrators will use good menu planning principles in planning menus which use juices or juice drinks. For example, a Child Care Food Program administrator may choose to serve a full-strength juice rather than a juice drink to keep the level of liquids in the meal at a reasonable level.

Source: FNS Instruction 783-11, Rev. 1, dated 8/18/1995

Source Citation: Sections 210.10, 220.8, 225.16, 226.20