

MEMO TO: Parents of Infant Children in the HANCI Child Learning Centers  
FROM: Wendy Harris, Director of Intergenerational Programming  
April Estell, Director, HANCI at the VA  
Stephanie Aloian, Director, HANCI at Carolyn's House  
RE: Child and Adult Care Food Program

The HANCI Child Learning Centers offer the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to infants enrolled in our program. This is a federal and state program that ensures nutritious meals to the children enrolled and has many direct benefits for your child. We have participated in this program for many years, providing meals for all of our children. Under the CACFP your child will receive the following foods while s/he is in care:

- Birth – 3 months
  - infant formula – Parent's Choice with Iron
- 4 – 7 months
  - infant formula – as above
  - vegetable or fruit
  - infant cereal
- 8 – 11 months
  - infant formula or juice – as above
  - vegetable or fruit
  - infant cereal
  - meat or other protein

These foods will be served over three meals – breakfast, lunch, and snack and will include the types of foods appropriate to your child's age and stage of development; ie. strained infant foods or soft table foods. The infant meal pattern, established by the New York State Department of Health, Child and Adult Care Food Program, is posted in your child's room. Please refer to it as your child progresses from one age grouping to the next.

Infants are defined by the CACFP program as those children under 1 year of age. Often they are fed pureed or mashed versions of foods prepared for the older children, ie. fruits and vegetables. As the children reach approximately 10 months of age, the staff will discuss with you what table foods your child is eating at home. This is a good age to transition your child from baby food in jars to more adult meals. Foods are mashed or cut to appropriate sizes for children of this age. We use skinless wieners and do not feed infants hard fruits or vegetables such as grapes, oranges, apples, celery or lettuce salad. Foods that present possible choking hazards are cut up appropriately.

All of these foods will be provided by the Center and served in consultation with you. You will want to advise the staff of instructions you have received from your pediatrician or family physician regarding the introduction of new foods. Both written and verbal communication will be very important in meeting the nutritional requirements of your baby and the CACFP. Please let us know if there are foods you are not feeding your child for some reason, so that we do not give them to your child. If you have any questions regarding the meal program or transitioning from infant foods to more adult types of foods, please discuss these questions with the staff or myself.

The CACFP requires that enrolled families complete an eligibility form each year. You will need to complete one now and then again each October when we re-enroll for the following year. Please complete the attached form and return it to the infant caregivers.