

Child Care & Nutrition, Inc.

Mini-Teddy Newsletter

March, 2017 Edition

Workshop Schedule In this Mailing!

This is the time of year to start attending the CCNI annual nutrition and mandatory training workshops. *You won't want to miss this training!*

We are going to be looking hard at the new nutrition guidelines that must be implemented by October 1, 2017. Some of the changes in the CACFP can be implemented now and follow current guidelines. They are listed below:

- You may stop serving flavored milk to children 1 through 5 immediately
- You may start serving whole grains, no longer serve grain-based desserts
- You may serve breakfast cereals and yogurts within the corresponding sugar limits (WIC guidelines will be used)
- Limit juice,
- As a method of cooking, you can no longer deep-fat fry foods on-site
- Serve whole unflavored milk to one year olds, and serve fat-free flavored milk to children 6 years old and older. All of these provisions are consistent with the current meal pattern requirements.

Kid Kare Updates

We are well into the process of transferring Minute Menu Kid Pro Accounts to Minute Menu KidKare Accounts. Many have made the switch and love the new features.

There will be an \$8.00 monthly fee charged to the provider for the accounting features of the program. If you do not use the accounting features, the program will be free to use as always.

You can talk to your tax preparer to be sure, but we believe this could be a tax-deductible business expense.

There is a "contact us" button in the KidKare program. That does not come to CCNI, but it does contact KidKare. There are also very helpful videos and instructions at www.help.kidkare.com, or, within the program, click on the question mark icon in the upper left hand corner, then click on any light bulb icon.

You can now move on to the next month before submitting your claim for the previous month in KidKare. The program will warn you for five days that your claim needs to be submitted. If you aren't sure if your claim was submitted properly, call us at 507-694-1499 or toll free at 800-634-3359.

Claiming Dates for March, 2017

Claim received by noon, March 2
Payment will be sent by March 10

Claim received by noon, March 9
Payment will be sent by March 17

Claim received by noon, March 16
Payment will be sent by March 24



In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

March, 2017

EXCEL Electronic Claims

We updated the Excel claim forms if you would rather claim on your computer, and submit to us through email. Benefits Include:

1. Claims look like our paper forms, so easy.
2. You can email and we will print out the claim, saving you postage and time.

So, if you like the computer, but don't like complicated programs, this is a great option. Call CCNI at 507-694-1499 or our toll free number at 800-634-3359 to have us send you the Excel spreadsheet.

Smarter Meal Contest

March 1-May 30, 2017, Minnesota Department of Education is hosting a contest to create an eating environment to promote healthy choices.

To enter the contest starting March 1, 2017, go to <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/FNS/Team> to view the Smarter Mealtime application materials. The contest will be explained on the website, but the first part will be done online and will be due April 7. The second part will be due May 2 and can be submitted through email or regular mail. The third part is optional, but will allow you to be considered for a grand prize and can be submitted through email or regular mail

Your Regional Director will be passing out these cards at an upcoming home visit, or at training, so watch for them and enter after March 1!

Coming Soon: The Minnesota Smarter Mealtime Challenge!

Who: Minnesota child care providers (centers or homes) on CACFP.

What: The challenge will run **March 1 - May 30, 2017**. Learn how to create an eating environment to promote healthy choices; then tell us the changes you made by completing the application form.

Why: Receive recognition! Applicants who successfully implement the challenge criteria will be designated as a "Smarter Mealtime Champion," receive a certificate, be recognized on the MDE website, and be eligible to win one of eight grand prizes.

How: Starting March 1, visit <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/FNS/Team> to view the Smarter Mealtime application materials (look under the Smarter Mealtime heading).

 

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.



Claim Reminders!

1. **Keep records daily!** USDA does not believe people can remember what they ate one or more days ago, so it is very important to write your meals down at the end of the day and record your meal counts for each child.
2. **REMEMBER to tell us when school children are in your care on a weekday.** We need that information each month with your claim! So, be sure to let us know on your claim or in Minute Menu **STL-038** that children are present in care for a snack or lunch and school is out that day.
3. **Home Visit issues:** Our staff asks who will be in care or not at the day of the home visit. If an unexpected child arrives after your visit, call your Regional Director right away to make sure you can be reimbursed for that child's meals.
4. **Home Visits issues:** Everyone who works with the primary owner such as helpers, co-licensed, etc must know where records are kept and are also responsible for helping to keep them up to date. So, if "Grandpa" watches the children for a few minutes one day, he must be able to provide records to our staff in the event of a visit.
5. **Home Visit issues:** When our Regional Director records a meal or snack observed in your home, be sure to record the same food items served and observed on your forms.
6. **Stay within your license capacity.** Make sure you know your limits of children
7. **Split shift meals?** Send in your split shift meals times to be approved prior to serving split shifts. Then, on your claim, let us know which children ate early and left care and which children arrived after the first ones left and at the same meal service later and which children were present for both shifts.
8. **Record the meals from the home visit correctly.** Meals claimed must match what your Regional Director observed at the visit.