



Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

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Memo

To: CACFP Sponsors

From: Health and Nutrition Unit

Date: March 8, 2016

RE: Infant Formula Options

For Immediate Release:

CCDF Providers,

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education would like to take a moment to thank each of you for the countless hours of service you have provided to families participating in the Child and Adult Care Nutrition Program (CACFP). The commitment is both appreciated and valued. As a result of the dedication and hard work, more children are being served in high quality child care settings than in years past. This is an amazing accomplishment for Arkansas.

The current, Policy requires a center/home/ministry participating in the CACFP to offer formula and meals to infants who are in care during meal service times. Parents/guardians, however, may decline what is offered, and supply the infant's meals instead.

Research has shown that 2.5 percent of children under the age of three have a milk allergy (Published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, June 2010). The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education recommends that institutions provide formula options such as, one milk-based and one soy-based. Institution participation would provide extra support to children and families with alternative nutrition needs.

The willingness to provide best nutritional practices when serving the children and families in Arkansas is appreciated.

If additional questions arise regarding best practices for Infants please contact Brandy Ishmon, the Infant and Toddler Coordinator brandy.ishmon@dhs.arkansas.gov

Sincerely,

Brandy Ishmon
Infant Toddler Coordinator