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Arkansas Department of Human Services	Procedure: AR CACFP 2013-8
Division of child Care and Early Childhood Education	Section: All Institutions
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Subject: Parents Providing Food
	Effective date: 04/16/2013

To claim reimbursement for a meal, the center must supply ALL of the CACFP meal components. **Food items provided by parents cannot be counted as fulfilling any of the CACFP required meal or snack components.** If the parents provide an additional food such as cake for snack and the provider provides the required components, then the meal may be claimed. It is strongly recommended that the required components be served before any additional or extra foods are offered.

Example

Johnny's mother brings cookies to the center to help celebrate his birthday. The center serves the cookies and milk for the snack meal. This snack meal cannot be claimed because the required components were not provided by the center. The center could serve fruit and milk and then offer the cookies, which the parent provided, as an extra and claim the snack for reimbursement.

Food donations cannot be accepted in place of all or part of a participant's child care fees or tuition.

Exceptions to this provision are made:

- When the parent is supplying infant formula for an infant. When the parent provides infant formula, the center must supply all other required component or components in order to claim reimbursement for the meal or supplement and must have a signed statement on file indicating that the parent has refused the formula offered by the center. This form is the "Obligation to Serve Infants" form. Meals containing infant formula provided by the center are reimbursable. Meals containing only breastmilk for children age 0 through 7 months are reimbursable. Meals containing breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula for infants in the 8 through 11 month age group must contain all other required meal components supplied by the center in order to be claimed.
- If it is necessary for a parent to supply a very specialized formula for medical reasons, then the meal may still be claimed for reimbursement if the provider supplies at least one required meal component. A written medical statement is required.