

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM			ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	CHILD CARE CENTERS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL			11/06	5/16	7	7.9
CHAPTER Chapter 7. Meal Pattern				SUBJECT Meal Service Times and Duration			

This policy applies when scheduling meal times and when approval is granted for meals claimed for reimbursement in all child care centers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program as institutions and facilities.

Meal service times for infants (birth until the first birthday) are not restricted by this policy. Infants should be served “on demand” as needed. Claims for reimbursement for infant meals served is limited to two meals and one snack **or** two snacks and one meal when the child is in attendance.

Reimbursement for meals will only be made for meals served during the center’s approved meal times as listed and approved on the Center Information Sheet of the Program application. Meal times may be changed any time as needed for center operation, within the requirements of this policy, by revision and approval of the Center Information Sheet on the CACFP Web-based system.

Meal time duration

When scheduling meal times, the following guidelines will be used for approval:

Breakfast

- The duration of the breakfast meal service may take no more than two hours from start to finish.
- The breakfast must be served at a time traditionally considered as the normal serving time for breakfast.

Snack

- The duration of the snack service may take no more than two hours from start to finish.
- A snack may be approved for midmorning, afternoon and evening.
- A snack may be scheduled no earlier than 2 hours after the completion of the previous meal or snack.
- *The midmorning snack may be served at a time less than 2 hours following the completion of the breakfast meal only in situations where the children served the morning snack are totally different children, who arrive at the center too late for the scheduled breakfast.*

Lunch

- The duration of the lunch meal service may take no more than 2 hours from start to finish.
- The lunch must be served at a time traditionally considered as the normal serving time for lunch..
- The lunch may be scheduled no earlier than 2 hours after the completion of the previous meal or snack.

Supper

- The duration of the supper meal service may take no more than 2 hours from start to finish.
- The supper may be scheduled no earlier than 2 hours after the completion of the previous meal or snack.
- The supper meal must be served at a time traditionally considered as the normal serving time for supper.
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At least two hours must elapse between the end of one meal or snack service and the start of the following meal or snack.

Reference:

Time of meal service {226.20(k)} State agencies may require any institution or facility to allow a specific amount of time to elapse between meal services or require that meal services not exceed a specified duration.

CACFP policy 293 states that in order for a meal to be claimed it should be served at a time traditionally considered as the normal serving time for such a meal.