USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Feeding Infants Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains

in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Grains in the form of bread/bread-like items, crackers, iron-fortified infant cereal, or ready-to-eat cereals are an important part of meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). To make sure infants get enough grains, required amounts of grain items are listed in the infant meal pattern as ounce equivalents (oz eq). Ounce equivalents tell you the amount of grain in a portion of food.

As a reminder, iron-fortified infant cereal is the only grain that may count toward a reimbursable breakfast, lunch, or supper in the CACFP infant meal pattern. You may serve bread/bread-like items, crackers, iron-fortified infant cereal, or ready-to-eat cereals as part of a reimbursable snack.

Reminder!

Infant cereals and ready-to-eat cereals must be iron-fortified. Ready-to-eat cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.

All grains served must be enriched, fortified, or whole grain-rich.

Breakfast/Lunch/Supper

Grain Item	Requirements
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal; or meats/meat alternates; or both	0-½ oz eq

Snack

(choose at least one item below)

Grain Item	Requirements
Bread/Bread-like Items; or	0-½ oz eq
Crackers; or	0-¼ oz eq
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal; or	0-½ oz eq
Ready-to-Eat Cereal	0-¼ oz eq

For more information on the CACFP infant meal pattern, see the "Feeding Infants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program" guide at TeamNutrition.USDA.gov.

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Using the Grains Measuring Charts

The Grains Measuring Charts on pages 3–4 tell you how much bread/bread-like items, crackers, iron-fortified infant cereal, and ready-to-eat cereals you need to serve to meet CACFP infant meal pattern requirements. To use these charts:

1. Find the chart that applies to the grain item you want to serve: Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal (Page 3), Bread/Bread-Like Items (Page 3), Ready-To-Eat Cereal (Page 4), Crackers (Page 4).

2. Find the grain you want to serve under the "Grain Item and Size" column.

3. Check if the chart lists a size or weight by the name of the grain. If the chart:

   - **Lists a weight** for the grain, such as ***at least 28 grams***, then use the Nutrition Facts label for the item you want to serve to make sure it weighs the same or more than the grain on the chart. See page 5.
   - **Lists a size** for the grain, such as ***about 2" by 2"***, then check if the item is the same size or larger than this amount. See page 6.
   - **Does not list a weight or size** for the grain, then you do not need to check the size or weight of the product before using the chart.

Grains Measuring Chart for the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

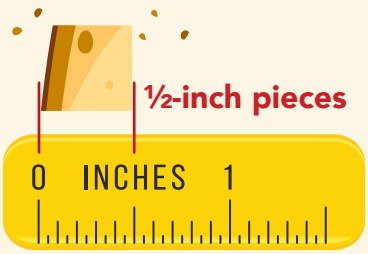
Grain Item and Size
Bread at least 28 grams
Cracker, Saltine (about 2" by 2")
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal (single and multigrain)

Reminder!

Do not offer babies crackers containing seeds and nuts. These items can increase a baby's risk of choking.

Reminder!

Cut breads and bread-like items into thin strips or small pieces no larger than ½ inch. This will reduce the risk of a baby choking.



BREAD/BREAD-LIKE ITEMS = ½ oz eq

IRON-FORTIFIED INFANT CEREAL = ½ oz eq

Grains Measuring Chart for the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

Grain Item and Size		½ oz eq is about…	Creditable at Meals or Snacks?
Biscuit at least 28 grams	★	½ biscuit or 14 grams	Snack only
Bread at least 28 grams	★	½ slice or 14 grams	Snack only
Bun or Roll (entire bun or roll) at least 28 grams	★	½ bun/roll or 14 grams	Snack only
Corn Muffin at least 34 grams	★	½ muffin or 17 grams	Snack only
English Muffin (top and bottom) at least 56 grams	★	¼ muffin or 14 grams	Snack only
Iron-Fortified Infant Cereal (single and multigrain)		4 tablespoons (¼ cup) dry	Breakfast, lunch, supper, snack
Pancake at least 34 grams	★	½ pancake or 17 grams	Snack only
Pita Bread/Round at least 56 grams	★	¼ pita or 14 grams	Snack only
Tortilla, Soft, Corn (about 5 ½")	■	¾ tortilla or 14 grams	Snack only
Tortilla, Soft, Flour (about 6")	■	½ tortilla or 14 grams	Snack only
Tortilla, Soft, Flour (about 8")	■	¼ tortilla or 14 grams	Snack only
Waffle at least 34 grams	★	½ waffle or 17 grams	Snack only

★ Check that the item you want to serve weighs this amount, or more. See "Using the Nutrition Facts Label" on page 5 for more information.

■ Check that the item you want to serve is about this size or larger. See "Grains Measuring Tools" on page 6 for more information.

CRACKERS = ¼ oz eq

READY-TO-EAT CEREALS = ¼ oz eq

Grains Measuring Chart for the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

Grain Item and Size	¼ oz eq is about…	Creditable at Meals or Snacks?
Cereal, Ready-to-Eat: Flakes or Rounds (e.g., o-shaped cereal)	4 tablespoons (¼ cup) or 7 grams	Snack only
Cereal, Ready-to-Eat: Puffed (e.g., crispy puffed rice cereal)	5 tablespoons (~⅓ cup) or 7 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Animal (about 1 ½" by 1")	■ 4 crackers or 7 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Bear-shaped or Similar, Sweet (not honey flavored) (about 1" by ½")	⬢ ■ 6 crackers or 7 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Cheese, Square, Savory (about 1" by 1")	■ 5 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Fish-shaped or Similar, Savory (about ¾" by ½")	■ 11 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Graham (not honey flavored) (about 5" by 2 ½")	⬢ ■ ½ cracker or 7 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Round, Savory (about 1 ¾" across)	■ 2 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Round, Savory, Mini (about 1" across)	■ 4 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Saltine (about 2" by 2")	■ 2 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Thin Wheat, Square, Savory (about 1 ¼" by 1 ¼")	■ 3 crackers or 6 grams	Snack only
Cracker, Zwieback (not honey flavored)	⬢ 1 cracker or 6 grams	Snack only

⬢ Honey should never be fed to babies younger than 1 year.

■ Check that the item you want to serve is about this size or larger. See "Grains Measuring Tools" on page 6 for more information.

Using the Nutrition Facts Label

Some items on the Grains Measuring Charts may have weights listed by the name of the item. Follow the steps below to see if your grain meets the minimum weight listed in the chart:

Example #1: Pita Bread/Round (1 item in a serving)

1. Find the grain item and its size in the Grains Measuring Chart.

Grain Item and Size
Pita Bread/Round at least 56 grams

The pita bread/round you are comparing must weigh ***at least 56 grams*** to use the chart as a guide to the minimum serving amount.

Nutrition Facts

6 Servings Per Container

Serving Size **1 Round (57g)**

- If the pita bread/round you want to serve is ***at least 56 grams***, then you can serve that item.
- If the pita bread/round is lighter in weight than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart, see page 6.

Example #2: Pancakes (more than 1 item in a serving)

1. Find the grain item and its size in the Grains Measuring Chart.

Grain Item and Size	**½ oz eq** is about…
Pancake at least 34 grams	½ pancake or 17 grams

2. Look at the Nutrition Facts label of the grain you wish to serve. Find the weight of the serving size. One serving of pancakes weighs 117 grams.
3. Using the Nutrition Facts label, find out how much is in one serving (for example, the number of pancakes). There are three pancakes in one serving.
4. If there is more than one of an item in a serving, you will need to find the weight of each item. In this example, the serving size is three pancakes.

Nutrition Facts

4 Servings Per Container

Serving Size **3 Pancakes** **(117g)**

Divide the weight of the serving by the number of items in one serving to find the weight of one item.

117 grams	÷	3 pancakes	=	39 grams per pancake
Serving Weight		*Serving Size*		*Weight of Each Item*

Compare the weight of one item to the minimum weight listed in the Grains Measuring Chart (from Step 1). Is your item the same weight as, or heavier than, the minimum weight?

☑ **Yes:** In the example above, pancakes must weigh at least 34 grams in order to use the Grains Measuring Chart. Because each pancake weighs 39 grams, you may use the chart as a guide for the minimum serving amount.

What If My Grain Is Different?

Is the grain item you want to serve:

- Smaller than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?
- Lighter in weight than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?
- Not listed on the Grains Measuring Chart?

If the answer is "yes", you will need to use another method to determine how much of a grain item to serve in order to meet CACFP infant meal pattern requirements. You could:

- Enter information from the Nutrition Facts label into the "Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Program's (FBG) Exhibit A Grains Tool."* This tool will let you know how many ounce equivalents of grains are in one serving of the item.
- Use the "FBG Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW)"* to determine the ounce equivalents per serving for standardized recipes.

  *Available at foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov.

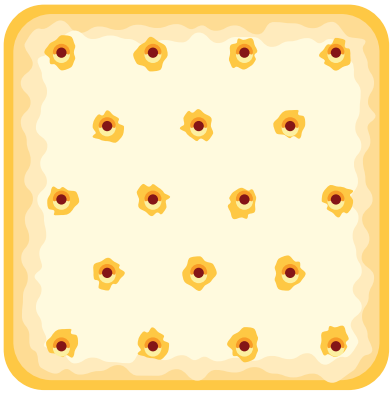
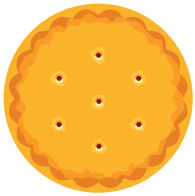
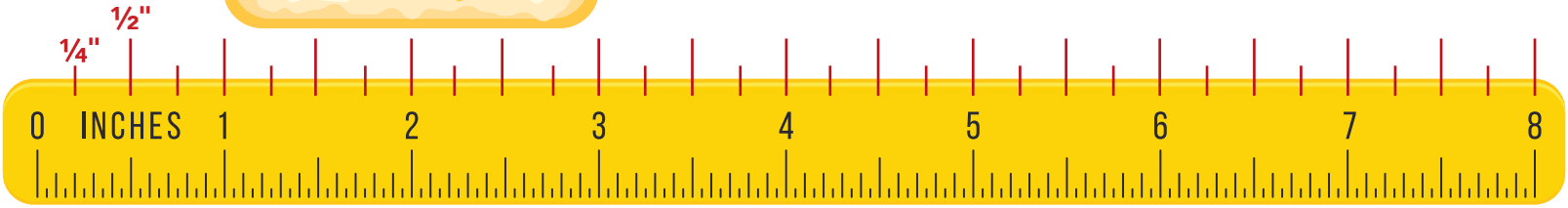
Note: Make sure the food you are entering is creditable for infants. For more information, see "Feeding Infants in the CACFP's Appendix F: Infant Foods List" at fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/FI_AppendixF.pdf.

Grains Measuring Tools

Compare your food to the guides below to see if it is the same size or larger than the item listed on the Grains Measuring Chart.

Guides appear as actual size when this worksheet is printed at 100% on standard 8.5" by 11" paper.

2" by 2"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