

USDA

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and Consumer  
Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mercer Corporate Park  
300 Corporate Boulevard  
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691-1596



FEB 29 1996

Date:

Child Day Care Center Memo #11-96  
Family Day Care Memo #14-96

Reply to Attention of:

Meal Pattern Guidance: Special Variations  
to Meet Ethnic and/or Religious Needs:  
Muslim Dietary Guidelines

Subject:

Virginia Day Care Center Administrators  
Virginia Family Day Home Sponsoring  
Organizations

To:

We increasingly receive requests for information regarding Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern guidance to address ethnic and/or religious needs of children in day care.

Section 226.20(i) of the CACFP regulations stipulates that USDA may approve variations in the food components of a meal where there is evidence that such variations are nutritionally sound and are necessary to meet ethnic, religious, economic, or physical needs. For example, FCS Instruction 783-13 addresses variations in meal requirements for Jewish schools and institutions, and FCS Instruction 783-14 addresses variations in meal requirements for Seventh-Day Adventist schools and institutions.

It is important to note that the program regulations do not require that variations be made for religious or ethnic reasons, however many of you have expressed the desire to do so whenever it is practical and reasonable.

This guidance has been written for those centers or homes with a number of Muslim families and who wish to provide meals for those Muslim children who may have some dietary restrictions.

We also have prepared a more detailed guidance packet if you are interested in exploring this topic in greater depth. It contains specific restrictions, background about the relation between diet and faith, and suggested further readings. We will be happy to provide this document to you upon request: please contact Doris Lewis of this office at (609)259-5072.