

Sample two-week menus for long day care

Early childhood

Use these sample menus as a guide for developing a healthy menu for children which tastes great and meets their nutrition needs.

These menus are based on the Menu planning guidelines for long day care (1).

The meals featured in the sample menu (for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) provide children in long day care who are over the age of one year with all the foods and drinks they need to meet their nutritional needs.

[Sample summer menu - click here](#)

[Sample winter menu - click here](#)

Key information about the sample menu



Each two-week menu cycle includes at least:

- 4 red meat meals
- 2 pork or poultry meals
- 2 fish meals
- 1 vegetarian meal

Sample two-week menus for long day care



Each day provides a child with

- 1 children's serve of fruit (2)
- 1-1½ children's serves of vegetables and legumes/beans (3)
- 1 children's serve of lean meat, poultry, fish, eggs, legumes and nuts (if allowed) (4)
- 2 children's serves of milk, yoghurt, cheese and alternatives (5)
- 2 children's serves of grain (cereal) foods (6)

For information about children's serving sizes, please refer to the Menu planning guidelines for long day care at www.heas.health.vic.gov.au.



The menu does not include any of the following discretionary foods or drinks:

- Chocolate, confectionery, jelly
- Sweet biscuits, high fat/salt savoury biscuits, chips
- Cream, ice cream
- Deep fried foods (e.g. hot chips) and pastry based foods (pies, sausage rolls, pinwheels and pasties)
- Most fast food and takeaway foods
- Some processed meats, (e.g. sausages, frankfurts/hot dogs, salami, Strasbourg, Devon, some commercial chicken nuggets and fish fingers)
- Soft drinks, fruit juice and fruit drinks, cordial, sports drinks, energy drinks, flavoured milk and flavoured mineral water



The menu is varied and considers special dietary needs

- Infants over the age of 6 months are provided with iron rich foods, and meals and snacks of progressing texture according to their age.
- Children with allergies are provided with appropriate substitutes of foods and drinks, in line with the Menu planning guidelines.
- The menu includes a variety of meals from different cultures and a variety of tastes, colours, textures and flavours.
- Main meals are not repeated in the two-week menu cycle and the main ingredient in a meal is not repeated on the same day each week.



Additional important information

- This sample menu should be used as a guide. If you would like to adapt this sample menu for your service, please use the Menu planning guidelines to ensure you provide adequate serving sizes for each child.
- The recipes in the sample menu below that are in bold are on the Healthy Eating Advisory Service website www.heas.health.vic.gov.au.

References:

1. Menu planning guidelines for long day care, Healthy Eating Advisory Service, Department of Health and Human Services, State Government of Victoria, 2013, www.heas.health.vic.gov.au
2. One children's serve of fruit is equal to half a serve in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
3. One children's serve of vegetables and legumes/beans is equal to one serve in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
4. One children's serve of lean meat, poultry, fish or alternatives is equal to half a serve in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
5. One children's serve of milk, yoghurt, cheese and/or alternatives is equal to just under half a serve in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.
6. One children's serve of grain (cereal) foods is equal to one serve in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.