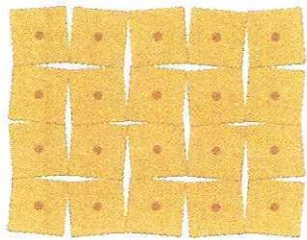
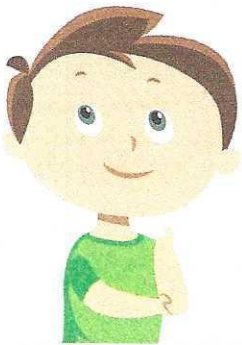


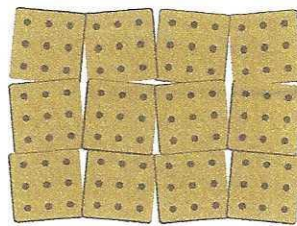
# Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Grains are an important part of meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). To make sure children and adults get enough grains at CACFP meals and snacks, required amounts for the grains component are listed in the meal pattern as ounce equivalents (oz. eq.). Ounce equivalents tell you the amount of grain in a portion of food.

## How Much Is 1 Ounce Equivalent?



**20 cheese crackers**  
(1" by 1") = 1 oz. eq.



**12 thin wheat crackers**  
(1 ¼" by 1 ¼") = 1 oz. eq.



**5 woven whole-wheat crackers**  
(1 ½" by 1 ½") = 1 oz. eq.

## Using the Grains Measuring Chart

The Grains Measuring Chart on pages 2-4 tells you how much of a grain item you need to serve to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. To use this chart:

- 1 Find the grain you want to serve under the "Grain Item and Size" column.
- 2 Check if the chart lists a size or weight by the name of the grain. If the chart:
- 3 Find the column for the age of your participants and the meal or snack you are serving. This column lists the amount of a grain you will need to serve to meet the meal pattern requirement for grains.

**Lists a weight** for the grain, such as *at least 56 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.

**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.

**Lists a size** for the grain, such as *about 1 ¼" by 1 ½"*, then check if the item is the same size, or larger than, this amount. See page 6.



### Grain Item and Size

**Pita Bread/Round**  
(whole grain-rich or enriched)  
at least 56 grams\*

**Popcorn**

**Pretzel, Hard, Mini-Twist**  
(about 1 ¼" by 1 ½")\*\*

**1- through 5-year-olds**  
at Breakfast, Lunch,  
Supper, Snack

**Serve at Least**  
½ oz. eq., which equals  
about...

¼ pita or 14 grams

1 ½ cups or 14 grams

7 twists or 11 grams

## Are There Other Menu Planning Considerations?

If you serve an item that is larger, or weighs more, than what's listed on the Grains Measuring Chart, then you might serve more grains than required by the CACFP meal pattern. The Grains Measuring Chart can help make serving enough grains easier. However, the tools described under "What If My Grain Is Different?" can also help you determine how much of an item to serve to meet the meal pattern without serving more than what is needed.

## 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 so, you will need to use another way to tell how much to serve in order to meet CACFP 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.

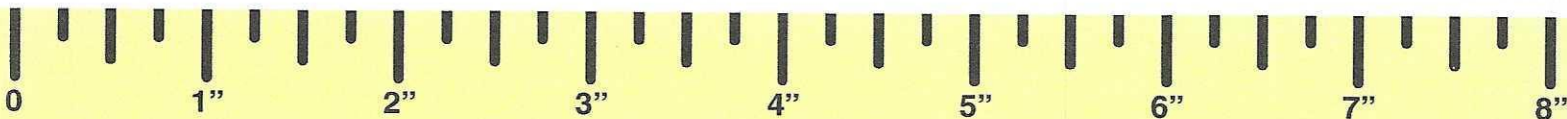
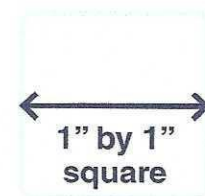
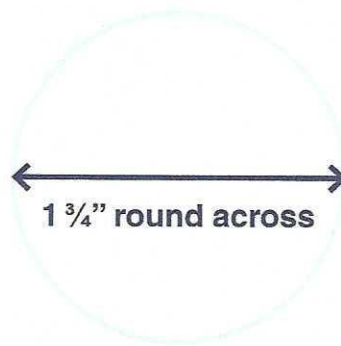
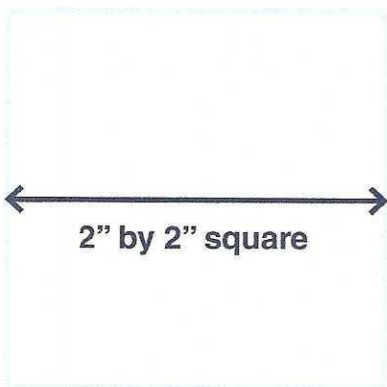
\*Available at <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov>.



## 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 ½" by 11" paper.**






## Using the Nutrition Facts Label

Some items on the Grains Measuring Chart 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:

- 1** Find the grain item and its minimum weight in the Grains Measuring Chart.

For example, the minimum weight for a pancake is at least 34 grams.

Grain Item and Size	Age Group and Meal		
	1- through 5-year-olds at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack	6- through 18-year-olds at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack Adults at Snack only	Adults at Breakfast, Lunch, Supper
 <b>Pancake</b> at least 34 grams*	<b>Serve at Least</b> ½ oz. eq., which equals about... ½ pancake or 17 grams	<b>Serve at Least</b> 1 oz. eq., which equals about... 1 pancake or 34 grams	<b>Serve at Least</b> 2 oz. eq., which equals about... 2 pancakes or 68 grams

- 2** Look at the Nutrition Facts label of the grain you wish to serve. Find the weight of the serving size (usually provided as grams (g)). One serving of Brand P pancakes weighs 117 grams.

- 3** Using the Nutrition Facts label, find how many items are in one serving. There are three pancakes in one serving of Brand P pancakes.

- 4** If there is more than one of an item in a serving, you will need to divide to find the weight of each item. For example, the serving size of Brand P pancakes is three pancakes.

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

Brand P Pancakes	
Nutrition Facts	
4 servings per container	
Serving size (3 Pancakes) (117g)	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>280</b>
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 9g	<b>12%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	<b>8%</b>
Trans Fat 0g	

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 117 \text{ grams} & \div & 3 \text{ pancakes} & = & 39 \text{ grams per pancake} \\
 \text{Serving Weight} & & \text{Serving Size} & & \text{Weight of Each Item}
 \end{array}$$

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:** Use the Grains Measuring Chart to see how much of your grain to serve to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. In the example above, pancakes must weigh at least 34 grams in order to use the Grains Measuring Chart. Because each Brand P pancake weighs 39 grams, you may use the chart as a guide to the minimum serving amount.



**No:** Use another method to determine how much of a grain item to serve. See "What If My Grain Is Different?" on page 6 for more information.

