



9 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
P.O. Box 3364  
Warrenton, Virginia 20188  
(540) 347-3767  
[www.cni-usda.org](http://www.cni-usda.org)

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USDA Child & Adult Care Food Program Sponsor

## MEMO

**To:** CACFP Family Child Care Providers

**From:** Director of Administration, Elizabeth Wittusen

**Date:** October 25, 2011

**Subject:** Water Availability

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As per the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296, all child care centers, family day care homes, at risk afterschool programs and shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) must make drinking water available to children upon their request.

The new provision requires that water should be made available throughout the day, including meal times, but should not be considered part of a reimbursable meal nor a substitute for any other beverage provided at meal service. Care should be observed when serving water to young children as excess water can lead to meal displacement, reducing the amount of food consumed by the child.

Water can be made available in a variety of ways which include but are not limited to: having water pitchers and cups set out, having cups available next to the kitchen sink faucet, or simply providing water to a child when it is requested. Water does not have to be available to children for self-service. Facilities are encouraged to serve water with snacks when no other beverage is being served.

If you have any questions, please call Child Nutrition, Inc. at 1-800-735-5434.