Nutrition Checklist for Menu Planning

Use this checklist to plan each two-week cycle of your service menu. The number of serves recommended is the minimum required to meet the nutritional needs of children when one main meal and two midmeals are provided.

Main Meals	Dairy Foods
Beef/Lamb/Kangaroo ■ Lean red meat is included on the menu	■ The menu includes a total of 1 serve of dairy foods daily
at least 6 times per fortnight Chicken/ Fish/ Pork/ Veal/ Non-Meat Meals	Serving milk at morning and afternoon tea may be an easy and reliable way to meet this requirement.
■ A variety of lean white meat/non -meat meals are included on the menu up to 4 times per fortnight	milk yoghurt cheese custard
■ Non-meat meals are based on eggs, cheese, tofu or legumes	*Cream, sour cream and butter are not substitutes for milk, yoghurt and cheese
■ Raw vegetables or fruit high in vitamin C are served with the non-meat meal	**Choose reduced fat dairy food for children aged 2 years and over
Raw vegetables and fruit high in vitamin C include	Dreads, Cereals, Rice and Pasta
citrus fruit tomato cauliflower broccoli	■ The menu includes at least 2 serves of bread, cereal, rice or pasta foods daily
	■ High fibre varieties e.g. multigrain, wholemeal, high fibre white are included daily
kiwi fruit capsicum rockmelon Iron Containing Foods	Other breads include: Pita, lavash, Turkish, Lebanese, fruit bread, scones, etc.
■ On each day that a red meat meal is served, at least 1 other iron containing food is included on the menu ■ On each day that a white meat or non-	Morning and Afternoon Tea (Midmeals)
meat meal is served, at least 2 other iron containing foods are included on the menu	■ Midmeals are planned on the menu as part of the total day's intake
Other iron containing foods: wholemeal bread breakfast cereal dried fruit Milo™	■ Milk, cheese, yoghurt or custard is included if necessary to meet the recommended daily serve
Vegetables and Fruit	■ Bread/cereal based foods are included if necessary to meet the recommended daily number of serves
■ The menu includes at least 2 serves of vegetables daily	■ Vegetables and fruit are included if necessary to meet the recommended daily number of serves
■ The menu includes at least 1 serve of fruit daily	

The above material has been reproduced with the permission of the NSW Ministry of Health, from *Caring for Children – Birth to 5 years (Food, Nutrition and Learning Experiences)*, 2014. For further information on this resource please visit **www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au**

*A variety of vegetables and fruit throughout the menu is important.

