

Methods for Healthy Cooking

How a food is cooked can make a difference in how healthy it is. Try some of the cooking methods below instead of deep-fat frying. Cooking with oils instead of butter or lard can be better for heart health.



Roast, Bake, or Broil:

Cooking foods, usually at high heat, in the oven.



Sauté, Pan Fry, and Stir-Fry:

Cooking foods with a small amount of hot oil over medium or high heat.



Grill: Cooking foods by placing them on a pre-heated metal grill, or grill pan, with high heat coming from below the food.



Oven-Fried Chicken gives the crunch kids love, but in a healthier way.

As of October 1, 2017, foods that are deep-fat fried onsite cannot count toward a reimbursable meal in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

- Deep-fat frying means cooking by fully covering (submerging) food in hot oil or other fat.
- “Onsite” means at your child care center, family child care home, or your child care center’s central or satellite kitchen.





Which foods may be served as part of a reimbursable meal in the CACFP?



Food	Reimbursable?
Packaged par-fried or flash-fried foods purchased from a grocery store (such as par-fried frozen potatoes).	Yes, if heated onsite by baking, microwaving, or another method that is not deep-fat frying. Compare foods and choose those lower in saturated fats.
Fried food from a restaurant or vendor.	Yes, if reheated onsite by baking, microwaving, or another method that is not deep-fat frying. Try to switch to healthier options.
Pan-fried foods prepared at the child care center or family child care home.	Yes, the food is not covered with oil when pan-frying.
Fried foods prepared at a child care center's central kitchen.	No.
Stir-fried or sautéed foods prepared at the child care center or family child care home.	Yes, the food is not covered with oil when stir-frying or sautéing.

Try It Out!

Find these yummy recipes at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp-meal-pattern-training-tools>.

Circle the ones you plan to try.



Try: Oven-Fried Chicken

Italian Garden Salsa with Crunchy Chicken Tenders

Try: Bean and Rice Burritos

15-Minute Enchiladas

Turkey Tostadas



Try: Oven-Fried Fish

Roasted Fish Crispy Slaw Wrap



Try: Baked Tortilla Chips

Corn Toasties

Try: Chicken Fiesta Taco Bake

Delicious Tacos

Eagle Pizza

Try: Delicious Oven French Fries

Tasty Tots

