How does a Jewish program meet CACFP expectations and religious practices if they conflict?

Variations in Meal Requirements for Religious Reasons:
Jewish Schools, Institutions, and Sponsors

FNS (Food and Nutrition Service) may approve variations in the food components of meals served in the child nutrition programs on an experimental or on a continuing basis where there is evidence that such variations are nutritionally sound and are necessary to meet ethnic, religious, economic, or physical needs.

In accordance with this provision, meals served in Jewish schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP); institutions and their facilities participating under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and sponsors and sites in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) may be exempted from the enrichment portion of the bread requirement of the child nutrition programs during the religious observance of Passover. Un-enriched matzo may be substituted for the bread requirement during that period of time only. Enriched matzo used as a bread/bread alternate must be served at all other times during the year.

In addition to this variation, the aforementioned entities (schools, institutions, and sponsors) may be exempted from the meal pattern requirement of the child nutrition programs which requires that milk be served with all lunches and suppers. Such entities may choose from three options, which apply only to lunch and supper menus containing meat or poultry. Milk must be served in all other meals since Jewish Dietary Laws allow other meat alternates such as fish, cheese, eggs, nut and seed butter and nuts and seeds to be consumed with milk at the same meal. For review and audit purposes, entities electing to use the options must maintain a record on file of which of the options they have chosen.

What are safe substitutes for sand?

Acceptable ITERS-R sand substitutes: sterilized potting soil, very finely shredded mulch, moon sand, rice, birdseed.

Not acceptable for ITERS-R: dried beans, small pebbles, Styrofoam chips, corn meal, flour

Acceptable ECERS-R sand substitutes: rice, lentils, birdseed, cornmeal, moon sand

Although not considered in scoring, the use of food for activities is discouraged. It sends mixed messages to children about food and can be a health concern for young children who tend to put materials in their mouth.

What are the guidelines for sand and water during the COVID-19 Pandemic?


The excerpt below was taken from the above referenced document.

Can we use...?

Sand bin/box: Yes, Limit the number who can play at one time, use social distancing measures if possible. Masks remain on children using the sand.

Play dough or other gelatinous substance: Each child should have their own supply that is not shared with anyone else. Store in individual containers.

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