

Trying, Sharing, Enjoying **Different** Foods

For breakfast, Sisi had rice cakes filled with beans. Timmy ate cheese grits. Juan ate a scrambled egg wrapped in a soft tortilla. Sondra munched on a waffle and ham. They all drank milk and nibbled on fruit – orange, peach, mango, or berries. What is on your family table for breakfast?

Every family has its own customs and culture, no matter how long they have lived in a place. Your family foods reflect your culture. Some may differ from foods that others eat and enjoy. Some foods are about the same. That is true about people, too. We are alike. We are different. And we are all special!

Sharing family foods with others helps your child...

- Learn about your family's customs and culture.
- Feel proud of who he or she is.

Trying foods of other families and other cultures helps your child...

- Learn about and enjoy new foods.
- Get the health benefits from different kinds of foods.
- See how people are alike and different.
- Know and respect others.



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Share Your Family Foods

Get involved in your child's day care or learning center. Being a parent volunteer helps your child, the staff, and you. **Pick one or more ways you can help.**

- Share your family food customs and traditions.** That helps staff and other adults understand your child better.
- Make a family food to share with other families at child care center events.** You may need to prepare it there.
- Talk in Circle Time about your family foods** – if you can. Bring ingredients, perhaps a fruit or vegetable. Show special cooking equipment, dishes, utensils, or table coverings, too.
- Offer a recipe for center meals or snacks.** You might help staff prepare it. Eat with kids when it is served.
- Encourage your child to tell others about a family food.** A picture may help. That helps build self-esteem.
- Help with a family cookbook.** It can be filled with family recipes from all the children in the child care center.
- Offer ideas for field trips.** Go to places that grow or sell special foods.
- Share more!** Share other things from your family's culture. Teach a dance or game. Play music. Read a book.
- Learn to make foods from other families.** Offer them at home.
- Your idea:**
- Cook with kids.** Do a “show and tell” about the ingredients. Let children help with simple, safe tasks, perhaps pouring or stirring. Adults can help, too. Talk about the taste, color, aroma, and look of the food.

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