

February 2026



Provider's
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Tax Time Tips for In-Home Child Care Providers

Tax season is here! Make sure your records are accurate so you can claim the deductions you deserve—without risking costly mistakes. One area that often causes confusion is **meal expenses**.

Claiming More Than CACFP Reimbursement?

If you plan to deduct more food expenses than what CACFP reimbursed, the IRS requires **ironclad documentation**. Here's what you need to do:

- **Keep all receipts** for daycare food purchases.
- **Separate personal groceries** from daycare food whenever possible.
- **If food is purchased for both family and daycare**, break down the receipt to show which items were for daycare and which were for personal use.
- **Document meals and attendance daily** to prove the food was served to enrolled children in care (KidKare Reports).

Why This Matters

Personal groceries for your family—or for non-paying children like grandchildren—**cannot** be claimed as daycare expenses.

Real example: A provider lost a tax case because their preparer deducted the entire family's food bill, claiming meals were shared with daycare children. **That does not hold up in tax court.** Only food purchased and served to enrolled children counts.

Quick Checklist: What to Keep

- Receipts for **daycare** food purchases
- Notes or highlights on receipts separating daycare vs. family items
- CACFP reimbursement records (KidKare Reports)
- Meal logs showing food served to enrolled children (KidKare Reports)

Bottom line: If you want to claim more than the CACFP reimbursement, keep detailed records and receipts. Doing so protects you from costly mistakes and ensures you get the deductions you're entitled to.

Disclaimer: We are not accountants and do not provide tax advice. The information shared is for general guidance only. Please consult your own accountant or tax professional for advice specific to your situation.

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REMINDERS!!

Submit your claim on the last day you are providing care for the month.

Call or email the SAME DAY you are having KidKare issues.

Check KidKare messaging for the direct deposit date and important ongoing updates.

Contact your advisor or the office if you will be closed.

Submit pending CRF's by the 25th of each month

Read emails daily.



Below is a news article regarding the United States Post Office and their new postmark policy.

“US Postal Service changes postmark rules; what to know right now” USA Today (Dec. 30, 2025)

This article outlines the new rule: starting December 24, 2025, USPS will apply postmarks based on the date a piece of mail is processed at a sorting facility — not the date it’s dropped in a mailbox or at the post office. This shift is part of the “Delivering For America” modernization initiative and may affect time-sensitive mail—such as ballots, tax returns, and bills—potentially resulting in late postmarks. USPS recommends submitting such items in person at a post office counter and requesting a manual postmark to ensure the correct date.

We want to remind our providers to mail any paperwork or CRF’s sooner, rather than later, each month. **You may email CRF’s, in PDF format**, before putting them in the mail to ensure we receive them within the same month as the child starts. **Remember that CRF’s are due BEFORE the 25th of each month.**

REACTIVATING A CHILD - If you need to reactivate a child, please be sure to call or email the office **BEFORE** the day the child starts back in your care. Waiting until the day the child starts could result in the child not being activated until the next business day and you could possibly miss out on reimbursement for the child that day.

CACFP Best Practice:

Support mothers who choose to breastfeed their infants by encouraging them to supply breastmilk for their infants while in day care and offer a quiet, private area that is comfortable and sanitary for mothers who come to the day care to breastfeed.

Baked Tortilla Chips

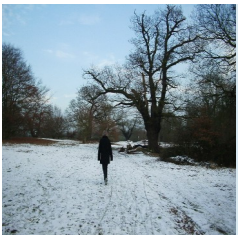


12 whole-grain, soft, corn tortillas (about 5½”)
1 T. olive oil
½ tsp salt (plus more to taste)
1 tsp. lime juice (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. In small bowl, whisk together oil, lime juice and salt. Brush oil mixture over both sides of each tortilla using a pastry brush. Cut each tortilla into 4 triangles using a knife or pizza cutter. Place tortilla triangles in a single layer on two large baking sheets. It’s OK if there is some overlap. Bake in preheated oven for 12-14 minutes if using a light baking sheet or 8-11 minutes if using a darker colored baking sheet. The tortilla chips are done when they are crisp and golden.

Snack Menu Suggestion:

Baked Tortilla Chips (served with hummus, bean dip, or salsa) & 100% Grape Juice



For February wellness, focus on mind-body connection with activities like winter walks, nourishing foods (especially heart-healthy), and prioritizing sleep (7-9 hours). Incorporate mindfulness through journaling, meditation, or deep breathing. Embrace the season by planning for spring, connecting with loved ones for Valentine's Day, enjoying simple pleasures like baths, and trying new hobbies like cooking or dancing to boost mood and combat winter blues.

2025 Tax Statement

Your CACFP tax information is easily accessible to you! You are able to view and print your 2025 tax information for your December 2024 to November 2025 claims paid in 2025. This report will give you all the information needed for your food program income for the year. Please call the office if you have any questions regarding your 2025 tax information.

To run your tax report from KidKare go to:

REPORTS ~ CLAIM STATEMENTS ~ TAX REPORT ~ 2025 ~ RUN