



Blessed Assurance Christian Child Care Center

Contact Information

CACFP Sponsor	YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Child Care Facility Name	Blessed Assurance Christian Child Care
Child Care Provider Contact Person Name	Linda Grinage
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Contact Person Phone Number	412-271-4727

Description

We are a licensed Group Home serving 10 children and located in Rankin, Pennsylvania. We have been in operation for 14 years, and we are nationally accredited with the NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care), a Head Start provider, and CACFP Food Program participant.

Keystone STARS Level 4

Category

Nutrition and Physical Activity Education (through curriculum or another resource) – N8 Nutrition Education for Staff, Children, and Parents

Goal

Our goal is to enhance our foods and nutrition curriculum and cultural diversity education for our teachers, parents, and children.

Promising Practice

I wanted to introduce the terms "diversity" and "culture" to the child care center. We needed to recognize that families' culture may have very different food preferences and practices, and families who have recently immigrated may have different food preferences than families who immigrated several decades ago. Families from neighboring regions may also have differing food traditions.

We introduced the terms to the children and incorporate the language into lesson plans. Each month or every other month, the children and lead educator pick a different country or region to study. We locate that place on a map and investigate what foods are native to that area.

We also explore the culture's customs and traditions. We emphasize the children's individual cultures into the story times.



Action Steps

- Complete the PA NAP SACC Self Assessment to determine strengths and weaknesses.
- Complete the PA NAP SACC learning modules to increase your knowledge and get ideas.
- Select different countries to learn about – keep in mind the nationalities of the children in your center.
- Study the culture, food, and customs of different countries.
- Prepare a native meal or snack – include the children in the preparation.
- Talk about the food while you eat – the color, the smell, the taste. How are the foods similar to and different from other foods?

Materials

Item Purchased	Cost of Item
Garden Heroes plush Characters	\$59.99
Healthy Helping My Plate Floor Mat	\$32.19
Healthy Eating Book Set	\$58.39
Multi-Cultural Food Set	\$39.95
4 Food Groups Food Set	\$89.95



Advice

Take advantage of the PA NAP SACC Self Assessment tool and the learning modules provided by the PA NAP SACC. You don't know how much you don't know until you find out how much you don't know! Keep the passion and goal in focus and research. There is a wealth of information available via the internet. Strive to keep parents, staff, and children motivated and involved. This was a very rewarding and enlightening learning experience.

Evidence of Success

The children began to recognize multicultural foods from pictures and books and identified the corresponding culture. Children have a desire to utilize the dramatic play area in a more meaningful way by using the different culture outfits and foods in their meal preparations. I hear them identifying their costume with the country, and they describe the foods they now have available that they were not exposed to before.