

# Share Tables

Sponsors must provide reimbursable meals that meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements; however, children may not always want to consume certain food or beverage items included in their meal. Using “share tables” is a strategy that sponsors of At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs may utilize to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods while reducing waste.

At-Risk Afterschool Care Program sponsors may create a sharing table or stations where children may return whole items that they choose not to eat. Unopened, unused, whole food items left on a share table are then available to other children who may want additional helpings. Other children may take food from share table, if they want additional helpings.

- Sponsors must check that “share tables” are in compliance with state and local health and safety codes first.

**At-Risk Afterschool Program sponsors must follow food safety requirements when choosing to include share tables in their meal service!**

**Sponsor must establish guidelines for use of share table or stations:**

- ✓ Must follow federal, state, and local health safety codes.
- ✓ Must establish clear guidelines for food components that may and may not be shared or reused as part of a reimbursable meal.
  - ✓ Must be unopened prepackaged items, unused, whole items.
  - ✓ Leftover, unopened cartons of milk may be left on share table, but must be held at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- ✓ Must supervise the share table at all times to ensure compliance with food safety requirements.
- ✓ Promote the share table to children and families and provide guidelines.
  - ✓ Display signage outlining share table “rules”.

