

First Step to Nutrition

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December Dates To Remember:

- October payment is scheduled for release **December 1**
- November claims are due in the office on **December 3 by 9:00 AM.**
- *The payment schedule dates for 2025 are **estimated dates.** We cannot guarantee deposit dates received from Pennsylvania State Treasury.*

Please be reminded to indicate all of your closures during the holiday months utilizing the provider calendar function on KidKare. You may close either whole days or partial days using this calendar function. If you need a refresher on how to use this function, please call the office at 570 724-2972. If you have your vacation/close days set for 2026, you may record them now as well on the provider calendar.

Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year

to our First Step providers and their families.

May the Holiday Season hold many good things for all of you!

Anne and Joann



Breastmilk Reminders

- Breastmilk is an allowable substitute for fluid milk for children of any age.
- Infant formula is an allowable substitute for fluid milk through 13 months.
- Thawed breastmilk should be refrigerated and used within 24 hours of being in a completely thawed state in the refrigerator, not the frozen state.
- Room temperature breastmilk must be used within 2 hours and any leftovers must be discarded.

Whole Grain Error

Please be reminded that a whole grain bread must be served once per day. Error 187 - "a meal with whole grain-rich bread/alternate component was not served on this day" will be generated for all days not serving a whole grain. This is our most frequent error that we see on provider claim forms. You must mark the whole grain button on the record meals screen in KidKare for a whole grain to be indicated as such on your menus. It is highly recommended that you view the Food Served Report prior to sending your claim. You may send a message to the office if you need a correction for a missed WG.