

Manager's Corner

Student Taste Testing

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PURPOSE

Improve the operation of child nutrition programs through research, education and training, and information dissemination.

VISION

Lead the nation in providing research, education, and resources to promote excellence in child nutrition programs.

MISSION

Provide relevant research-based information and services that advance the continuous improvement of child nutrition programs.

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Professional Standards

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING TRAINING – 4100

Employee will be able to develop plans that include involvement with school and community members, empower school nutrition leaders, and address excellent customer service.

4120 - Promote the Child Nutrition Program.

Introduction

Manager's Corner: Student Taste Testing is designed for managers to use in training their staff. Each lesson is roughly 15 minutes. *Manager's Corner: Student Taste Testing* provides a method for empowering managers to train their staff. This lesson plan contains the following:

- learning objective,
- statement explaining the importance of the topic,
- list of materials,
- instructions on how to present the information,
- questions to ask staff, and
- an activity to strengthen or refresh the knowledge of the staff.

Lesson Overview– Questions

Objective: Promote the School Breakfast Program by hosting a taste test of breakfast foods.

Why it is important: It is important to hold a taste test for students because they can vote on whether they like the food or not and give their own opinion of the foods and school meals. This can also be used to advertise the program and entice students to eat school breakfast.

Materials included in this document:

- **Menu Item Suggestion Activity**
- **Menu Item Suggestion Activity Answer Key**

Instruction:

Ask participating staff to answer the questions included in this training. Facilitate the activity.

Questions for the staff:

- **What are the benefits to encouraging students to eat school breakfast?**
Answer: It brings more money into the school meal program. It also might be some students' only way to get breakfast in the morning. Eating breakfast can increase student's learning ability, energy, positivity and can improve overall health and wellness.
- **How do you expect to get students interested in tasting the breakfast food?**
Answer: Make the food look very appealing and make sure that the food stays at the optimal temperature. Have a really positive attitude while serving the food.

Activity Instructions:

- Ask staff to complete the **Menu Item Suggestion Activity** using the above information. Ask staff to share their responses. At the conclusion of the activity, review the **Menu Item Suggestion Activity Answer Key**.

Menu Item Suggestion Activity

Instructions: Write your response to the questions below and have an open dialogue with your manager and other staff.

What are some breakfast foods that we should serve for the taste test?

What are some ways to promote the school breakfast program?

Menu Item Suggestion Activity Answer Key

Instructions: Write your response to the questions below and have an open dialogue with your manager and other staff.

Example Answers:

What are some breakfast foods that we should serve for the taste test?

- Muffins (blueberry, chocolate, banana)
- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Breakfast casserole

What are some ways to promote the school breakfast program?

- Posters
- Add it to the newsletter
- Announce it during lunch
- Post menu on website

References

Institute of Child Nutrition. (2019). *School nutrition S.T.A.R. nutrition and menu management instructor's manual*. University, MS: Author.

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