



Smarter Mealtimes Scorecard FAQs

Why Should I Use the Scorecard?

It offers research-based strategies that can reduce food waste and increase consumption of healthy foods. It provides a snapshot of how many strategies are currently in place in a child care program and which ones the child care program can work toward. The Scorecard can be filled out repeatedly to measure improvement over time.

Who Should Complete the Scorecard?

The Scorecard is a valuable tool for child care providers to use in their own mealtime environment. Child care providers are encouraged to welcome stakeholders such as parents, administrators, and outside professionals to complete a Scorecard to give diverse perspectives. Always ask permission before completing a Scorecard in a child care mealtime space that is not your own and always provide results and supportive feedback to the mealtime staff afterwards.

How Can I Make the Scorecard Work for my Child Care Program?

Each child care program is unique and may not be able to implement all the items on the Scorecard - *that's OK!* Mark off items that currently reflect the mealtime environment and use the Scorecard as a list of items to consider in the future.

What if a Strategy is Only Half-True for a Child Care Program?

Only mark an item if it is **completely** true for the mealtime environment being observed. Consider partially true strategies to be prime candidates to implement first!

I Work in a Child Care Program that Feeds Multiple Groups of Children in Different Meal Service Areas. Should I Complete the Scorecard in Each Mealtime Environment?

Yes, child care programs that have multiple mealtime locations or different groups of kids (i.e. mealtime in each classroom or different parts of the building) should complete a different scorecard for each mealtime location in the program.

