

Many items that usually contain cows' milk protein can be adapted by using a suitable milk alternative and a dairy free margarine. All the family can then eat the same foods helping you to provide a range of healthy meals. Recipes can easily be adapted for soya free diets too – avoiding soya cheese alternatives and using a non-soya alternative to milk and a non-dairy spread that is soya free.

### Helpful hints

- Many meals do not need to contain milk - such as roast dinners or casseroles served with potatoes and plain vegetables.
- Use a calcium fortified milk alternative (e.g. soya, oat, coconut) to make sauces, pancakes, batter and desserts. Do not use rice milk for children under 4 ½ years old.
- Use cornflour mixed with water to thicken sauces, or make a roux with a milk free margarine and your child's milk alternative.
- Allow hot drinks to cool a little before adding soya milk as it may curdle.
- Grate soya/vegan hard cheeses on the fine part of the grater if they are not melting very well.
- Use a dairy free melting cheese (e.g. Cheezly super-melting mozzarella™) on pizza, cheese on toast and on lasagne.
- Use a hard dairy free cheese (e.g. Sheese™) to make cheese sauces. Grate on the fine part of the grater so that it melts more easily. Using a microwave will save it sticking to the bottom of the saucepan (which also works for dairy free custard & porridge).
- Use plain dairy free yogurts or coconut milk alternative to make curries, raita, stroganoffs, creamy sauces and dips.
- Try Soyatoo™ whipping cream (spraycan), or Oatly cream as an alternative to cream.
- Use dairy free/vegan cream cheese/sour cream or dairy free plain yogurt in dips, cheesecakes, quiches and savoury and sweet sauces.

### Recipes

Savoury	Sweets and Desserts	
Basic white sauce	Custard	Sponge cake
Fish Pie	Rice pudding	Cherry muffins
Shepherd's Pie	Pancakes	Flapjacks
	Ice cream	Ginger biscuits

*Some recipes taken from 'Cow's milk free diet for infants and children' Produced by FAISG of the BDA (2012)*

### Basic White Sauce

**Ingredients:**

20g (¾oz, 1tbsp) dairy free margarine  
20g (¾oz, 1tbsp) plain flour or corn flour  
300ml (½pint) milk alternative  
Salt and pepper to taste

**Hob Method:**

Place all ingredients in a pan and heat gently, whisking continuously until the sauce thickens.

**Microwave Method:**

Place all ingredients in a bowl. Whisk to remove lumps. Microwave it for 30 seconds and then whisk. Repeat this until it makes a smooth sauce. Flavour with cooked mushrooms, vegetables or parsley.

### Custard (Hob or microwave)

**Ingredients:**

150ml (¼pint) milk alternative  
15g (½oz, ½tbsp) milk free custard powder

**Method:**

Mix the custard powder with 2 tablespoons of the milk alternative. Gently warm the remaining milk alternative on the hob or in the microwave until almost boiling. Remove from the hob/ microwave and pour over the custard paste, stirring continuously. Return to the hob/ microwave and heat for 2-3 minutes stirring regularly.

### Ginger biscuits

**Ingredients:**

75 g (3oz) golden syrup  
150 g (6oz) self-raising flour  
100g (4 oz) milk free margarine  
10ml (2 level tsp) ground ginger  
75 g (3 oz) caster sugar  
Large pinch of bicarbonate of soda  
Oven temperature: 375°F / 190°C / Gas Mark 5

**Method:**

Grease two baking sheets  
Sieve flour, ginger and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl  
Melt syrup, margarine and sugar in a pan  
Stir and leave to cool for 5 minutes  
Form into balls, place on baking sheet and flatten slightly  
Bake for 10 minutes.  
Transfer to wire rack to cool whilst still warm.

### Fish Pie (for family of 4)

**Ingredients:**

300 g (12oz) fillet of haddock or cod  
300g (12oz) potatoes  
1 hard-boiled egg  
2 tomatoes  
50ml (2 fl oz) milk alternative  
15 g (1/2 oz) milk free spread  
300ml parsley sauce (use white sauce recipe and add 2 tbsp parsley)  
Oven temperature: 350°F / 180°C / Gas Mark 4

**Method:**

Bake fish for 20 minutes. Boil potatoes and make parsley sauce. Flake cooked fish and add to sauce, season and place in ovenproof casserole dish. Skin and slice tomatoes, slice hard-boiled egg and place on top of fish. Cream potatoes with milk free spread and alternative milk, season and place on top of fish mixture. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes.

### Shepherd's Pie (for family of 4)

**Ingredients:**

450g minced lamb  
1 large onion  
½ courgette  
4 medium mushrooms  
Tin of chopped tomatoes  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
Beef stock cube (milk free)  
1 garlic clove  
2 large potatoes  
1 dessertspoon of milk free spread  
1 tbsp milk alternative

**Method:**

Fry the mince in the frying or saucepan with oil if needed. When brown, drain off excess fat. Add chopped onion and garlic, cook for 2 minutes then add chopped courgette and mushrooms. Cook for 5 minutes. Add chopped tomatoes, tomato puree, season with salt and pepper. Mix well. Leave to simmer for 20 minutes. Meanwhile peel, slice and boil the potatoes for 15 minutes. Once cooked mash with milk alternative and milk free spread. Place meat sauce in an ovenproof dish and spread the mashed potato on top. Cook in the oven at 350°F / 180°C / Gas Mark 4 for 10 minutes.

### Rice Pudding

**Ingredients:**

50g (2oz) pudding rice  
600ml (1 pint) milk alternative  
25g (1oz) caster sugar

**Method:**

Put rice and milk into a pan. Heat gently for 2 hours, stirring occasionally. Add sugar and serve.

Or, put rice, milk and sugar into a greased ovenproof dish and bake in an oven at 150°C (300°F, gas mark 2) for 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

### Muffins – orange & cherry

**Ingredients:**

1 orange  
125ml (4 fl oz) orange juice  
1 egg  
185 g (6 oz) plain flour  
170 g castor sugar  
125 g milk free spread  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp baking powder  
¼ tsp salt  
125 g cherries (washed)  
Preheat oven to 220°C (400°F, gas mark 6)

**Method:**

Peel rind from orange, remove all pith, cut rind into small pieces. Remove membrane and seeds from orange and cut into small segments.  
In a food processor, place orange rind, segments and orange juice, milk free spread and egg and process until combined and mixture has curdled. Transfer into a large bowl. Sift in flour, bicarbonate of soda, baking powder and salt and mix lightly to combine. Batter should be lumpy. Fold in cherries. Divide batter between 12-16 greased muffin tins or cases, filling two thirds full.  
Bake for 18-20 minutes and cool on a wire rack.

### Easy Ice-Cream

Use soya ready-made custard (e.g. Alpro™, Provamel™), put in ice-cream machine (according to volume specified by the manufacturer) and select the standard ice cream setting. Alternatively, put the custard in the freezer and stir or whisk once an hour until almost frozen.

### Sponge Cake

**Ingredients:**

120g (4oz) dairy free margarine  
120g (4oz) caster sugar  
120g (4oz) plain sifted flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 eggs

**Method:**

Blend the margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs slowly. Stir in the flour and baking powder, place in a greased and floured 18cm/7inch cake tin and bake at 180°C (360°F, gas mark 4) for 30 –40 minutes.  
*Adaption for chocolate cake - replace 2 dessertspoons of flour with cocoa (milk free).*

### Flapjacks

**Ingredients:**

100 g (4oz) milk free margarine  
200g (8oz) rolled oats  
4 level tbsp golden syrup  
Pinch of salt  
75g (3oz) granulated sugar  
Oven temperature: 335°F / 170°C / Gas mark 3

**Method:**

Grease a square shallow tin (approx 18cm/7inch)  
Melt margarine and syrup in a pan over a gentle heat  
Remove from heat; add sugar, oats and salt  
Mix thoroughly, turn into prepared tin  
Bake for 30-40 mins until golden brown  
Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes then cut into bars and cool on a wire rack.

### Pancakes

**Ingredients:**

300ml milk alternative  
1 egg  
125 g plain flour  
4tsp sunflower oil

**Method:**

Sieve the flour, make a well and crack the egg into it. Mix together and gradually add the milk alternative until smooth.  
Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan, add a ladle of mixture, tip the pan so its just enough to cover the base, cook for 30 seconds. Use a spatula to flip the pancake over and cook for another 30 seconds.  
Repeat until used up the batter. Serve with sugar and lemon juice.