Each day a child between ages 1 and 3 needs about 40 calories for every inch of height. This amount varies with each child's build and activity level. This means that a toddler who measures 32 inches, for example, should be taking an average of about 1,300 calories a day. A good rule of thumb for how much food to serve a toddler is ¹/₄ of an adult serving size or 1 tablespoon per year of age.

Food Group	Serving per Day	Number of Calories per Day	One Serving Equals
Grains	6	250	 ¹/₄ to ¹/₂ a slice of bread 4 tablespoons cooked rice, pasta or cereal ¹/₄ cup dry cereal 1 to 2 crackers
Vegetables	2 to 3	75	1 tablespoon per year of age of cooked vegetables
Fruits	2 to 3	75	 ¹/₄ cup of cooked or canned fruit ¹/₂ piece of fresh fruit ¹/₄ to ¹/₂ cup of fruit juice
Dairy	2 to 3	300 to 450	 ¹/₂ cup of milk ¹/₂ ounce or one 1-inch cube of cheese ¹/₃ cup of yogurt
Protein group: meat, fish, poultry & tofu	2	200	 1 ounce or two 1-ince cubes of solid meat 2 tablespoons of ground meat ¹/₂ of an egg (yolk & whites)
Legumes: dried beans, peas, lentils	2	200	2 tablespoons or $1/8$ of a cup of soaked and cooked legumes
Peanut Butter (smooth only)		95	1 tablespoon peanut butter spread thin on bread, toast or crackers