

## **Programs at Religious Institutions**

### **Religious Programs Have a Few Restrictions**

AMP works well with religious organizations. For example, the YMCA sponsors and runs several AMP sites throughout Florida. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) actually created a mandate (2006) for limiting barriers to religious organizations for serving child nutrition programs. However, there are a two restrictions.

You can't require a participant to engage in a religious ritual such as prayer. For example, you can have a moment of silence, but you can't say, "now all of us must pray."

You can't require your children to participate in a religious ritual in order to receive the meal or snack. Beyond these, you can have religious materials and discussion topics at your site, and you can even have religious rituals. You just can't require participation in the ritual if you're going to be serving AMP at your site. Only you can decide how much you want to tailor your programming to fit these guidelines.