

Slide 1: Understanding WIC Checks



Understanding WIC Checks

## Slide 2: Introduction



Next, we will take a look at the WIC check messages.

**Slide 3: Marisa and Mila**



This is Marisa and her daughter Mila. Mila, like half of the infants born in the United States, receives WIC benefits.

Slide 4: Check Questions



Is it the correct quantity?  
 Is it the proper package size?  
 Is it an allowed food?

PARTICIPANT NAME: Mila Rivera		FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699		CHECK # 28412234	FIRST DATE TO USE Aug 20, 2011
WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM 99-999 State Office		Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.		75-1268 919 Payable through FSMC, Lake Lilian, MN Acct # 802732	DATE OF USE LAST DATE TO USE Sep 19, 2011
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions 3 * 12.7 oz Powder Good Start Gentle				Actual \$ Amounts Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.	
				\$ Correction Only	Cashier's Initials
				\$	Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp
				Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase	
8274				Cashier: Do Not Accept if Already Signed - Must Match Signature ID	
<b>Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use</b>					
⑈ 284 1 2234 ⑈					

Here is one of Mila's checks. As a cashier, you have to match the foods selected by the customer with what's printed on the check. This can be tricky but there are three key questions that can help you out.

Slide 5: Correct quantity

The slide features a central question in a green box: "Is it the correct quantity?". To the left is a key icon. Below is a check for Mila Rivera with a highlighted "3\*" in a white box. To the right are three cans of Gerber Good Start Gentle powder. The check includes the following details:

PARTICIPANT NAME: Mila Rivera	FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699	Aug 20, 2011
WISC 99-	Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.	19, 2011
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions		
3 * 12.7 oz Powder Good Start Gentle		
8274		WIC Vendor No.
Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use		Cashier: Do Not Accept if Already S
⑈ 284 1 2234 ⑈		

First, you need to decide if it's the correct quantity. Look for the star on the check. The number before it will tell you how many containers may be purchased.

Slide 6: Proper package size

Is it the proper package size?

PARTICIPANT NAME: Mila Rivera	FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699
WISCONSIN WIC P 99-999 Sta	Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions	
3 * 12.7 oz	Powder Good Start Gentle
8274	
Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use	
⑈ 284 1 2234 ⑈	

Gerber  
GOOD START  
gentle  
NET WT 12.7 OZ (360 g)

Next, look to see if it is the proper package size. You'll find the package size after the star. Compare the package size on the check and on the container.

Slide 7: Allowed food?

Is it an allowed food?

Powder Good Start Gentle

GOOD START gentle

NET WT 12.7 OZ (360 g)

Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions

3 \* 12.7 oz Powder Good Start Gentle

Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use

Then, you need to decide if it's an allowed food. The information after the container size tells you what food is allowed. When you're reading an infant formula check, all the words printed on the check that describe the product should be seen on the label. If any part does not match, you have an important clue that it's the wrong product.

Slide 8: Correct Formula Purchase



This is what a correct purchase would look like for Mila's check.

Slide 9: Formula/Check Match

Incorrect. Please try again.

Correct.

PARTICIPANT NAME: Janey Doe		FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699		CHECK # 28412234	FIRST DATE TO USE Aug 20, 2011
WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM 99-999 State Office		Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.		75-1248 919 Payable through FSMC, Lake Lillian, MN Acct # 802732	DATE OF USE
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions 1 * 12.9 oz Powder Enfamil A.R.			Actual \$ Amounts		Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.
			\$ Correction Only	Cashier's Initials	
			\$		Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp
			Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase		
8274			Cashier: Do Not Accept if Already Signed - Must Match Signature ID		
<b>Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use</b>					
⑈ 284 1 2234 ⑈					

Let's look at another formula check. Find the formula that would be allowed with this WIC check.

Slide 10: OR Check message

2 \* 12.8 oz Powder Similac NeoSure DHA & ARA

OR 2 \* 13.1 oz Powder Similac NeoSure Expert Care

PARTICIPANT NAME: Janey Doe		FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699		CHECK # 28412234	FIRST DATE TO USE Aug 20, 2011
WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM 99-999 State Office		Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.		75-1248 919 Payable through FSMC, Lake Lillian, MN Acct # 802732	DATE OF USE LAST DATE TO USE Sep 19, 2011
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions				Actual \$ Amounts	
2 * 12.8 oz Powder Similac NeoSure DHA & ARA OR 2 * 13.1 oz Powder Similac NeoSure Expert Care				Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.	
				\$ Correction Only	Cashier's Initials
				Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp	
				Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase	
				Cashier: Do Not Accept if Already Signed - Must Match Signature ID	
8274					
<b>Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use</b>					
⑈ 284 1 2234 ⑈					

Here is another formula check message that you might see. The word "or" is the key phrase here; it allows choices. When you see it on the check, be sure to look carefully at what the options are. In this case, the WIC customer must choose to buy two cans of just one of the types of formula.

Slide 11: This or That

**PARTICIPANT NAME:** Janey Doe  
**FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID:** 722703/3671699  
**CHECK #** 28412234  
**FIRST DATE TO USE** Aug 20, 2011  
**WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM** 99-999 State Office  
**Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.**  
75-1248 919  
Payable through FSMC, Lake Park, MN  
Acct # 862732  
**DATE OF USE**  
**LAST DATE TO USE** Sep 19, 2011  
**Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions**  
2 \* 12.8 oz Powder Similac NeoSure DHA & ARA  
OR 2 \* 13.1 oz Powder Similac NeoSure Expert Care  
**Actual \$ Amounts** Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.  
\$ Correction Only Cashier's Initials  
\$  
Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp  
Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase  
8274  
First Date to Use

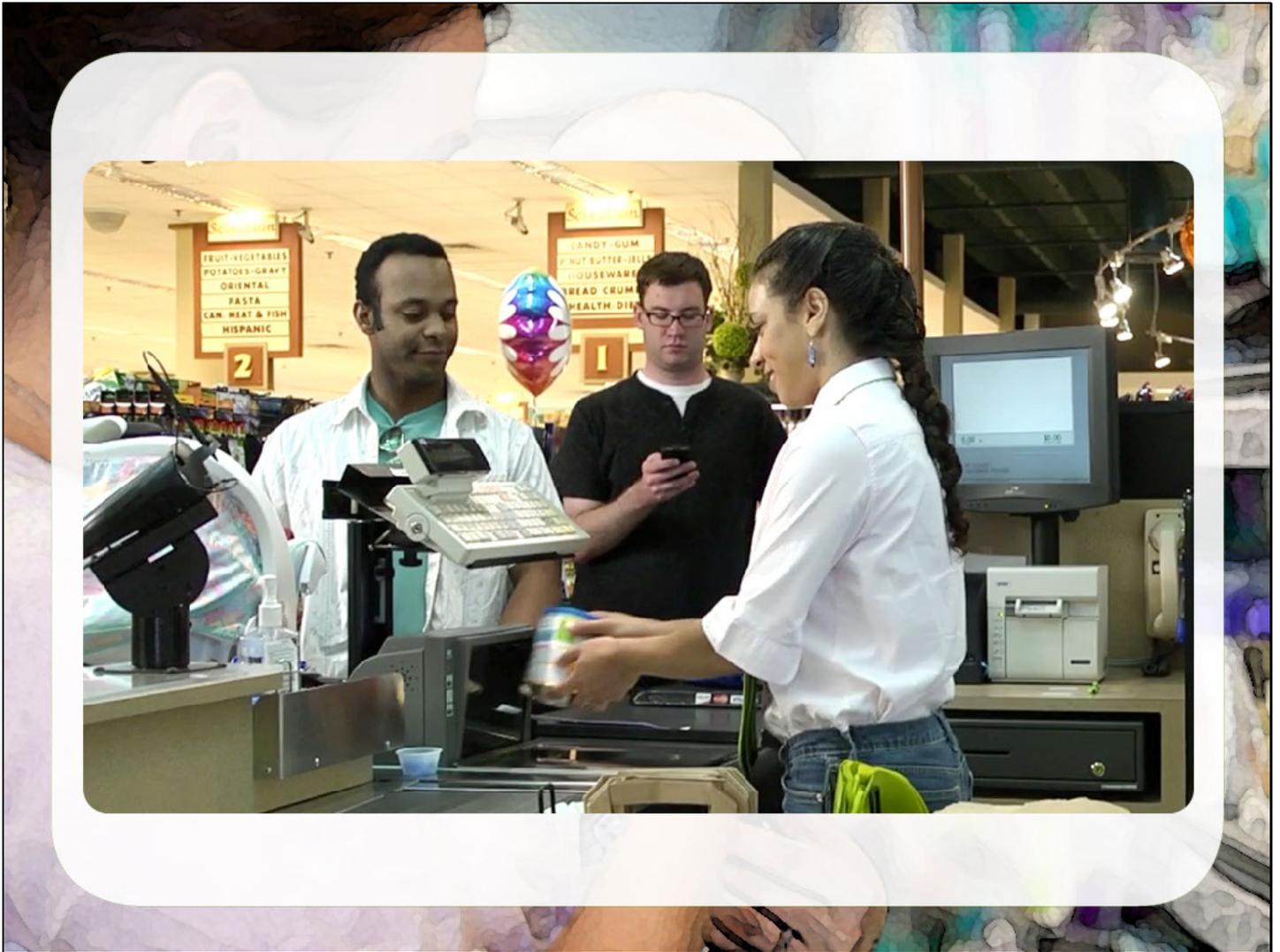
**Similac EXPERT CARE NeoSure**  
Enriched Nutrition  
For Babies Who Were Born Prematurely  
Infant Formula with Iron

**OR**

**Similac NeoSure**  
INFANT FORMULA  
For conditions such as prematurity  
Promotes growth and development  
WITH IRON  
\*Use only as directed by your doctor

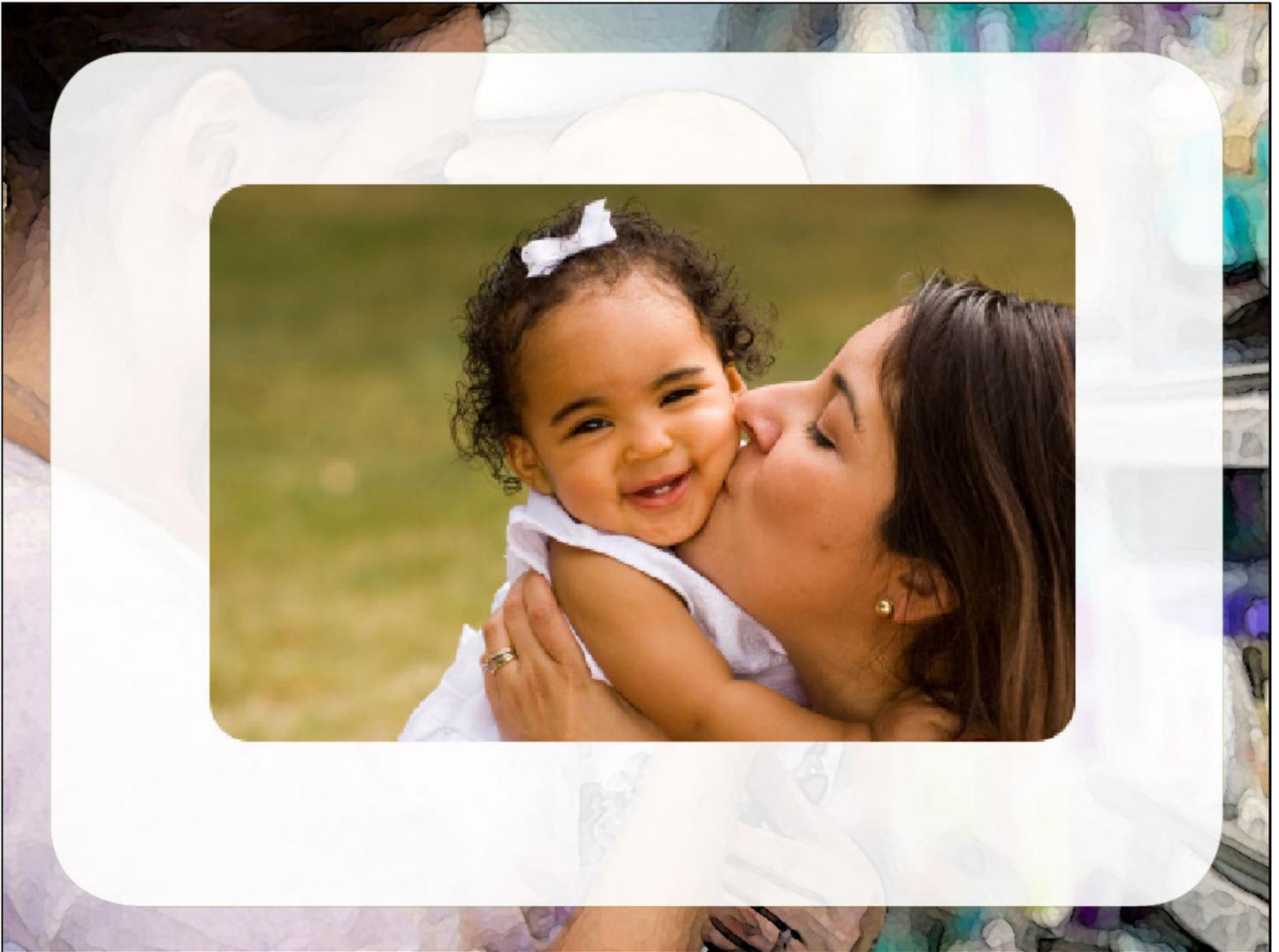
The customer can have this, or they can have that.

Slide 12: Grocery Store



Now do you know why you cannot rely on the store's cash register system to identify if it is an allowed product? Because it depends on what is printed on the check.

Slide 13: Maria/Mila



It's important to realize that each formula is made differently and one formula cannot be substituted for another. Babies have special needs and it may seriously hurt the baby if a different formula is used. If a baby needs a different formula, suggest that the customer contact their WIC office for help.

Slide 14: Infant Fruit/Veg Check



Formula checks specifically describe what is allowed. This is not the case for many items. For example, here is a WIC check for infant fruit and vegetables. As you can see, you need more information to make sure that the customer is purchasing the correct product. This is when you should use the WIC Approved Foods booklet.

Slide 15: Gallon vs. 2 Half



Marisa is shopping with another WIC check that specifies she can buy a gallon of milk. She cannot substitute two half-gallon containers.

Slide 16: Milk Type Rollover



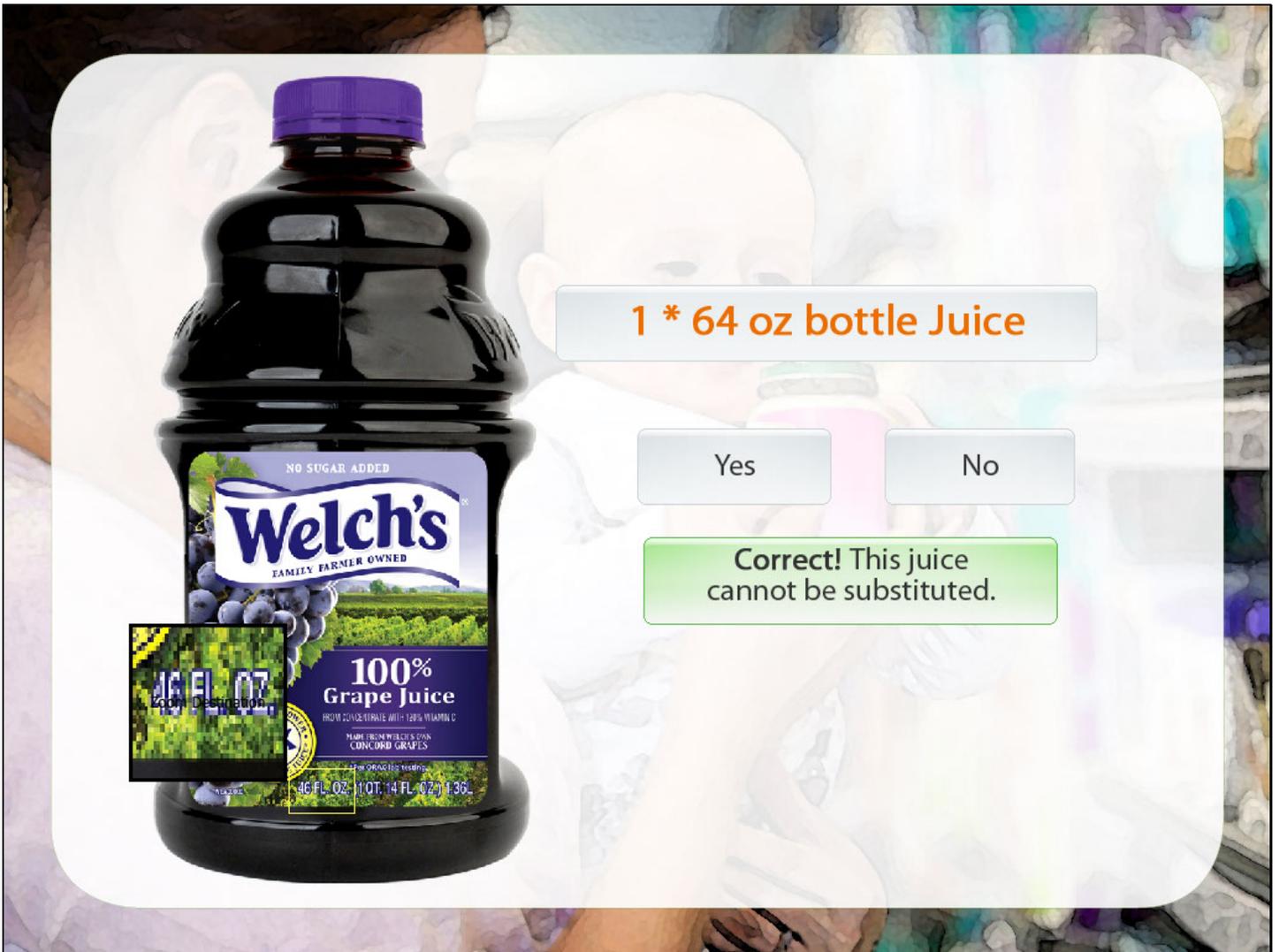
In addition to size, Marissa's check also tells her which type of milk she can buy. WIC customers can only buy the type of milk printed on the check.

Slide 17: Whole vs. Vitamin D



Did you notice the container isn't labeled as whole milk? It's labeled Vitamin D milk. Whole milk and vitamin D milk are the same thing.

Slide 18: Juice Check Message



Marissa has a check that allows her to purchase juice. Here is the check message. Can she buy this 46 oz. juice with her WIC check?

Slide 19: Cereal Check Message

**\* 36 oz or less Cereal**

PARTICIPANT NAME: Marissa Rivera		FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699		CHECK # 28412234	FIRST DATE TO USE Aug 20, 2011
WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM 99-999 State Office		Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.		75-1248 919 Payable through FSMC, Lake Lillian, MN Acct # 802732	DATE OF USE LAST DATE TO USE Sep 19, 2011
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions				Actual \$ Amounts	
* 36 oz or less Cereal				Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.	
				\$ Correction Only	Cashier's Initials
				Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp	
				Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase	
8274					
<b>Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use</b>				Cashier: Do Not Accept if Already Signed - Must Match Signature ID	
⑈ 28412234 ⑈ 1:09 ⑈					

Here is a cereal message. Do you notice that the number of containers is not printed on the check? The message after the star specifies the number of ounces allowed.

Slide 20: 2 Cereal Weights

oz   $28 + 12 = 40$

**\* 36 oz or less Cereal**

The image shows two boxes of cereal. On the left is a box of Cream of Wheat, which is red and white. It features a chef holding a bowl of cereal and the text "CREAM OF WHEAT ENRICHED FARINA". On the right is a box of Kix, which is yellow and blue. It features the text "Kix CRISPY CORN PUFFS" and "All Natural Corn". Both boxes have a green box highlighting the net weight: "NET WT 12 OZ".

Marisa brings these two boxes of cereal to the register. Your job is to figure out if she can buy these cereals. To do this, add the net weights from the two boxes of cereal.

Slide 21: 2 Cereal Weights

Is it OK to buy both boxes?

Yes No

\* 36 oz or less Cereal

Correct!  
She can't buy both.

The image shows two cereal boxes side-by-side. On the left is a red box of Cream of Wheat, labeled 'NET WT 28 OZ (794g)'. On the right is a yellow box of Kix, labeled 'NET WT 12 OZ (340g)'. A green callout box with white text says 'Correct! She can't buy both.' The background is a blurred image of a person's face.

Is it OK to buy both boxes? No, she can't buy both.

Slide 22: OR Check message 2

1 \* 18 oz or less Peanut Butter  
**Or** 4 \* 14-16 oz cans Beans/Peas or 1 lb dried Beans/Peas

PARTICIPANT NAME: Marissa Rivera		FAMILY ID / PARTICIPANT ID: 722703/3671699		CHECK # 28412234	FIRST DATE TO USE Aug 20, 2011
WISCONSIN WIC PROGRAM 99-999 State Office		Misuse of checks is subject to state or federal prosecution. Void if altered.		75-1248 919 Payable through FSMAC, Lake Lillian, MN Acct # 802732	DATE OF USE LAST DATE TO USE Sep 19, 2011
Valid For These Items Only - No Substitutions 1 * 18 oz or less peanut butter OR 4 * 14-16 cans beans/peas or 1 lb dried beans/peas				Actual \$ Amounts Pay to the Order of WIC Vendor No.	
				\$ Correction Only	Cashier's Initials
				Not Payable Without Authorized Stamp	
8274				Participant: Do Not Sign Until Time of Purchase	
<b>Deposit Within 45 Days From the First Date to Use</b>				Cashier: Do Not Accept If Already Signed - Must Match Signature ID	

# 28412234 # 1091

Marisa notices that her WIC check uses the word "or" in the food message. Whenever you see the word "or," you must look at what is printed before and after the word "or." The "or" tells you that there is a choice to be made.

Slide 23: True/False PB, Beans 1

1 \* 18 oz or less Peanut Butter  
Or 4 \* 14-16 oz cans Beans/Peas or 1 lb dried Beans/Peas



Can she buy this with her check?

- Yes
- No

Here is the check message. Can she buy this with her WIC check? No.

Slide 24: True/False PB/Beans 2

1 \* 18 oz or less Peanut Butter  
Or 4 \* 14-16 oz cans Beans/Peas or 1 lb dried Beans/Peas



Can she buy this with her check?

- Yes
- No

The image shows a jar of Skippy Creamy Peanut Butter and a bag of La Preferida Black Beans (Frijoles Negros). The peanut butter jar is 18 oz and the bean bag is 16 oz. The background is a faded image of a woman holding a baby.

Here is the check message. Can she buy this with her WIC check? No.

Slide 25: True/False PB/Beans 3

**1 \* 18 oz or less Peanut Butter**  
**Or 4 \* 14-16 oz cans Beans/Peas or 1 lb dried Beans/Peas**



**Can she buy this with her check?**

- Yes
- No

The image shows a jar of Skippy Creamy Peanut Butter. The label features the text 'FUEL the FUN!', 'SKIPPY', 'CREAMY', and 'PEANUT BUTTER'. The jar is set against a background of a woman holding a baby, which is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text and question.

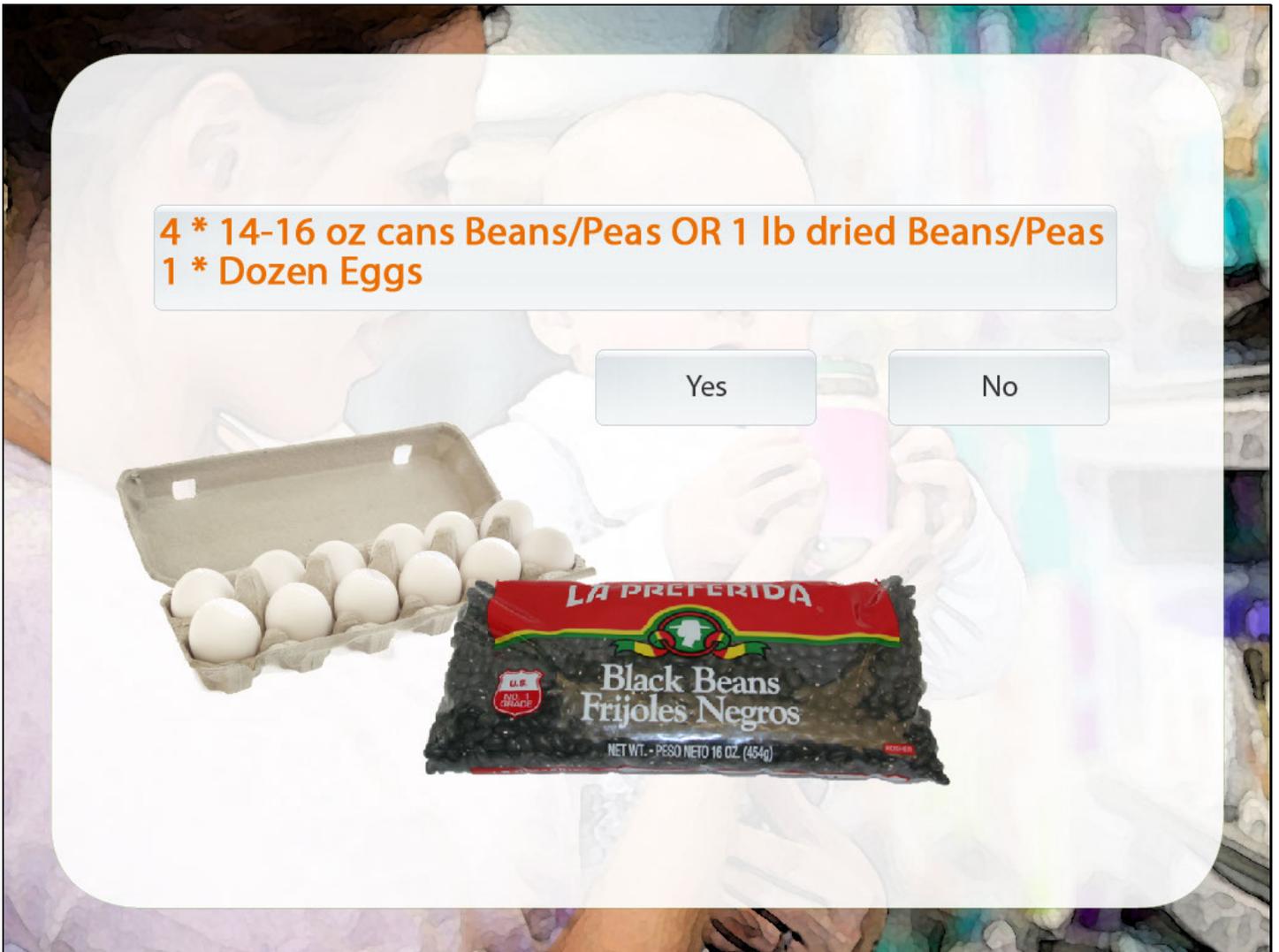
Here is the check message. Can she buy this with her WIC check? Yes.

Slide 26: PB/Beans Feedback



Marisa can only select one of the three choices listed in the check message. Notice that each choice may allow different quantities for each item.

Slide 27: Eggs/Beans



Using this check message - if Marissa buys 1 pound of dried beans, can she also get a dozen eggs? Yes.

**Slide 28: Additional Foods**



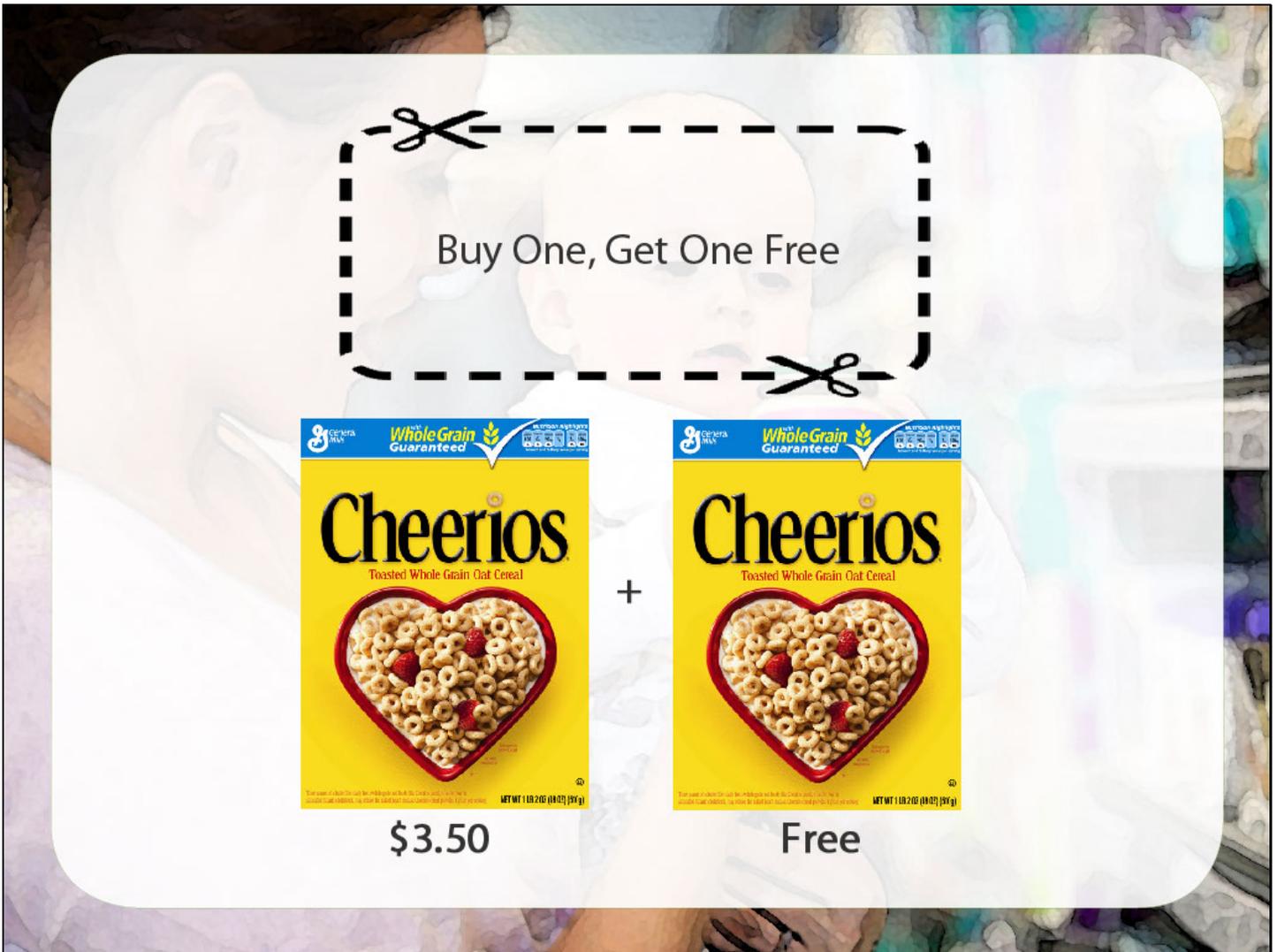
There are times when a WIC customer may be able to receive free foods through special offers. Let's look at this closer.

Slide 29: Extra Free Ounces



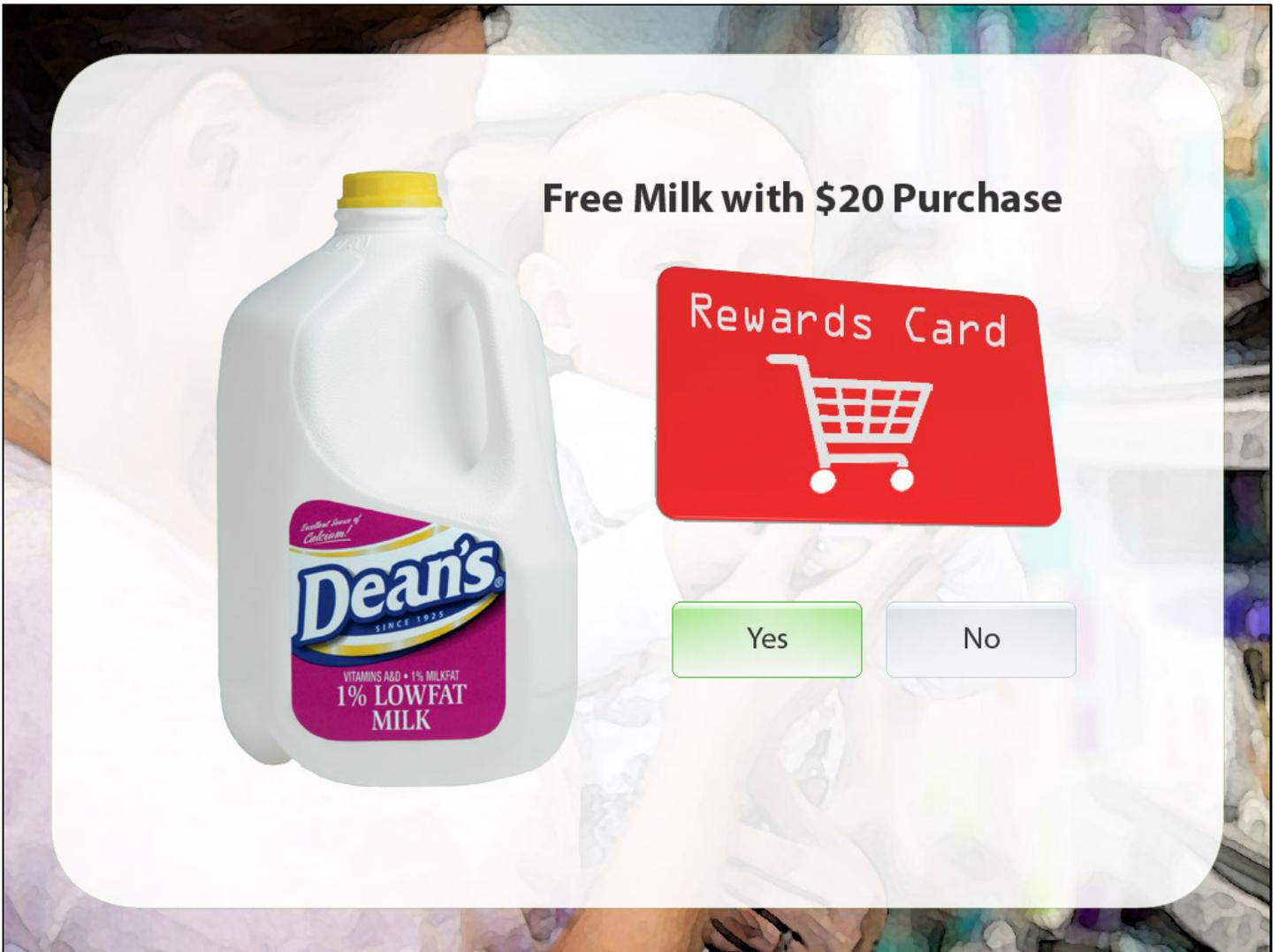
Marisa would like to buy this box of cereal. The label says "14.4 ounces for the price of 12 ounces." When adding up the total ounces purchased, you only count 12 ounces. The free ounces are not counted.

Slide 30: In-Store Promotions



WIC customers can also take advantage of in-store promotions like a buy one, get one free deal. What do you do? It's simple. You count only one package.

Slide 31: Rewards Cards



How about reward cards? A store offers free milk with a \$20 purchase for reward card users. Marisa spent \$25 on her WIC purchase. Can she receive the free milk? Yes.

Slide 32: Less than on check



There are also times when a WIC customer might choose to buy less than what is specified on a check. For example, it would be OK for Marisa to buy one gallon of milk and one bottle of juice even though the check has another gallon of milk and a whole grain food on it.

If a WIC customer doesn't have all the foods listed on the check, tell them what is missing. The customer chooses whether or not they want the missing item.

**Slide 33: No Rain Checks**



**Slide notes**

NARRATOR: What happens if a store can't provide a WIC customer with the correct quantity? Or the customer doesn't want to buy the full amount?

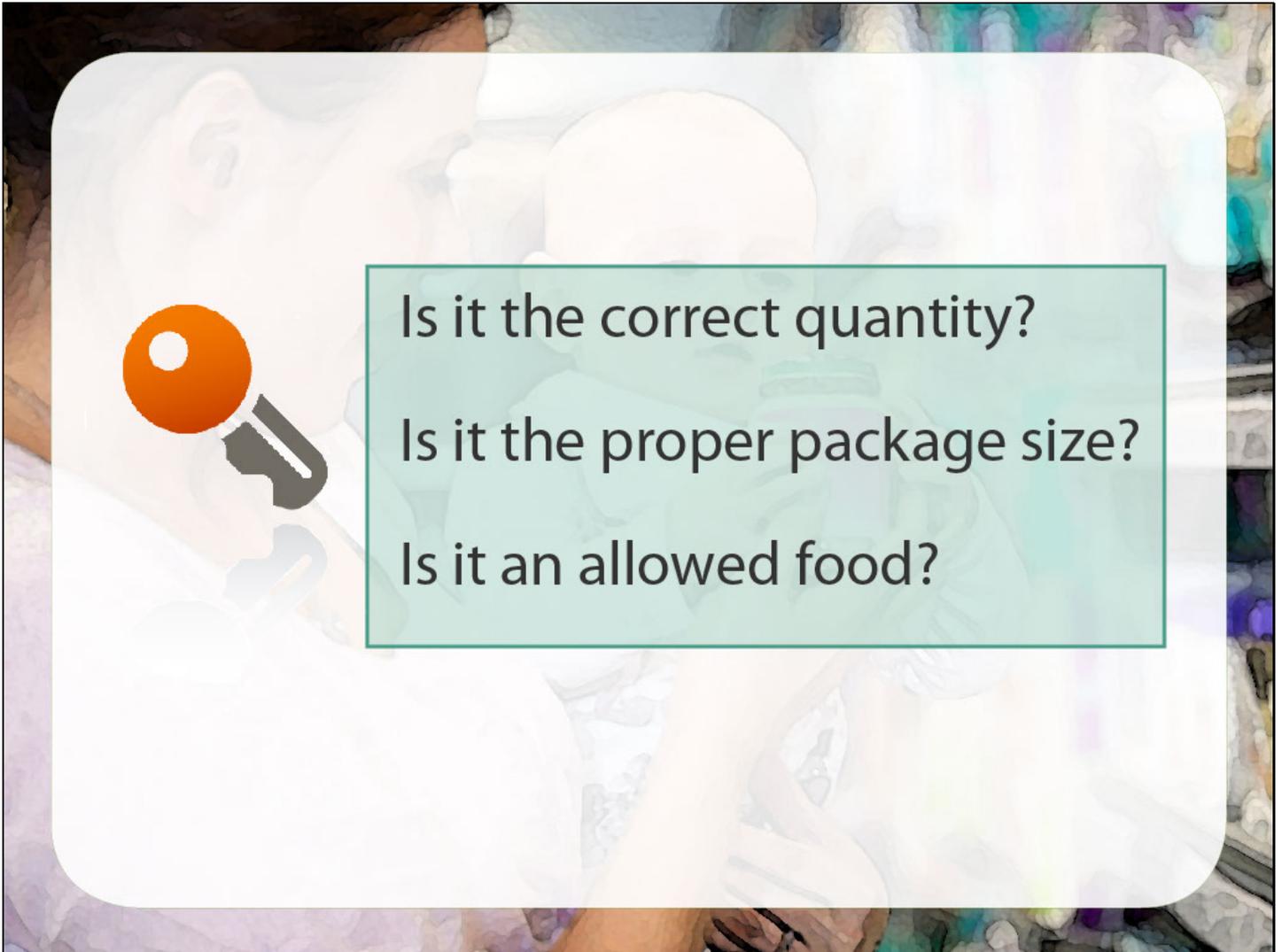
CASHIER: Can we give them a rain check or credit?

NARRATOR: If the check is used, the customer may only receive the food at the time of the purchase...The store is not allowed to give a rain check or credit for foods that the customer did not buy.

CASHIER: What if they want to shop somewhere else?

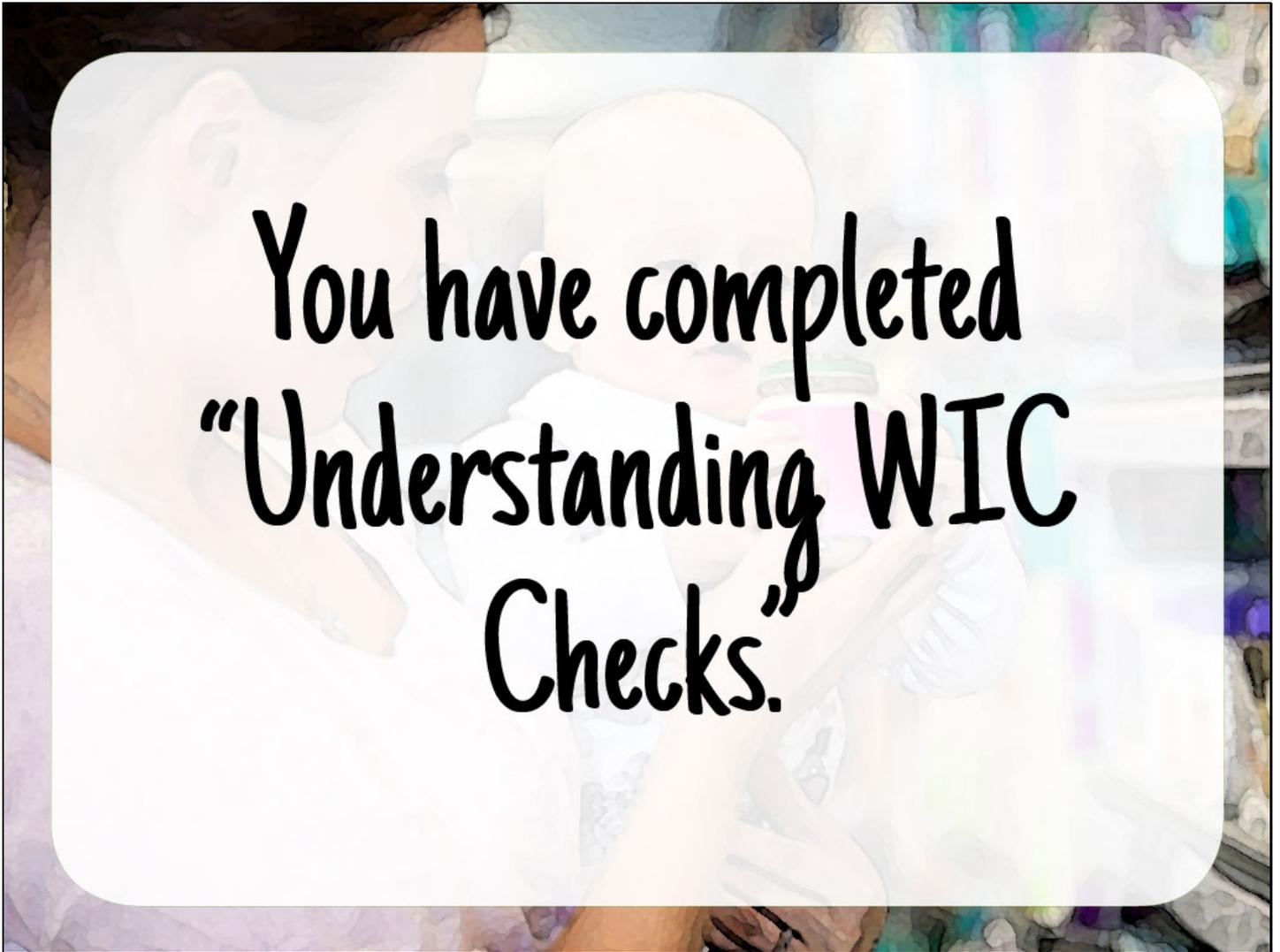
NARRATOR: The customer can choose to use this check at another store.

**Slide 34: Check Message**



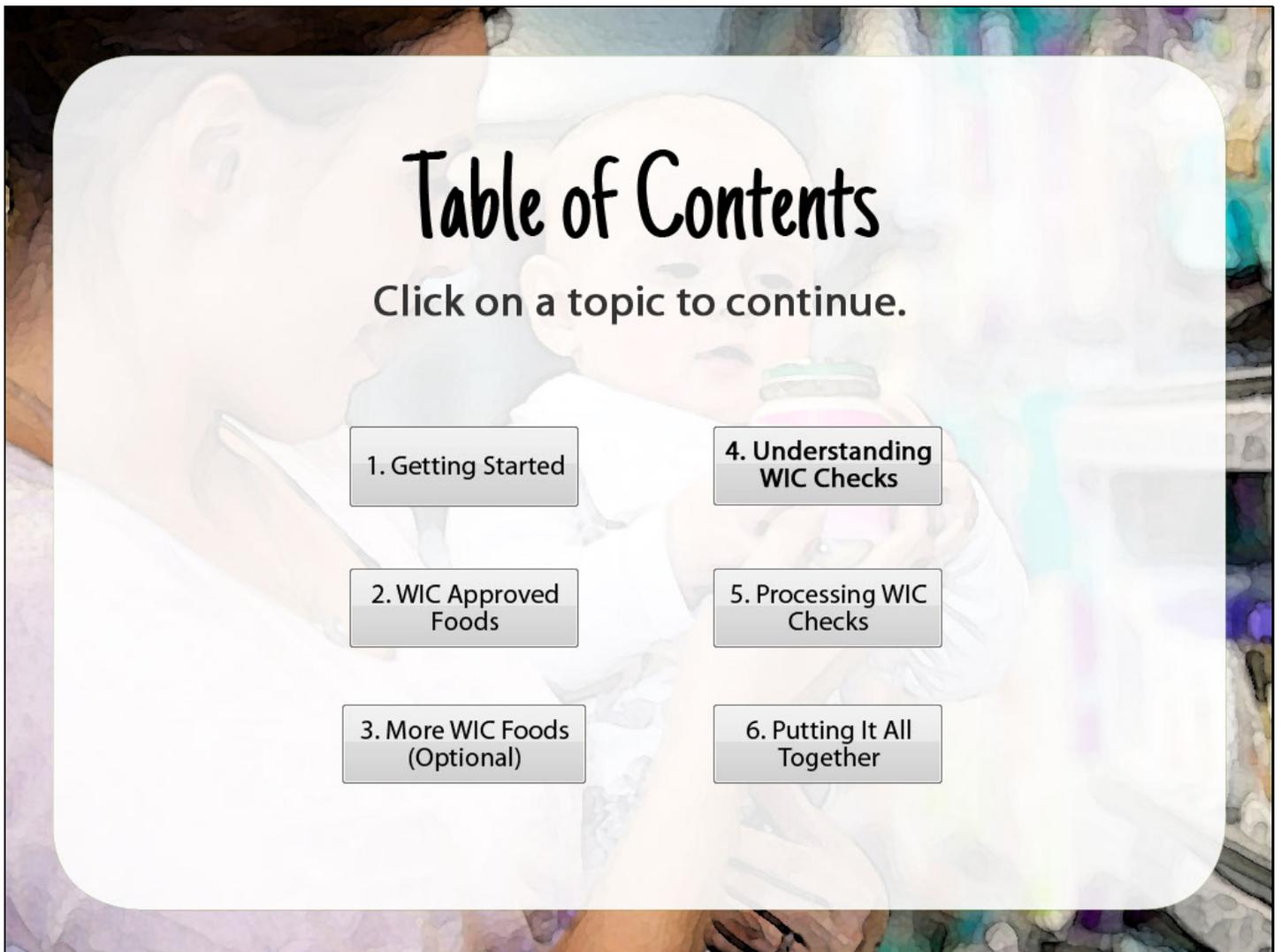
Remember these questions? Keep them in mind when reading check messages and verifying the food choices. Substitutions should never be allowed. Suggest that the WIC customer contact their WIC office for help.

Slide 35: Grocery Close



You have completed "Understanding WIC Checks"

Slide 36: Table of Contents



**Table of Contents**

Click on a topic to continue.

- 1. Getting Started
- 2. WIC Approved Foods
- 3. More WIC Foods (Optional)
- 4. Understanding WIC Checks
- 5. Processing WIC Checks
- 6. Putting It All Together