



Child Care Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies

In an effort to provide the best possible nutrition and physical activity environment for the children in our facility, we have adopted the following policies. The administration and staff appreciate support from the parents in promoting the health of our children.

Nutrition:

Fruits and Vegetables

- We offer fruit to children at least 2 times a day.
- We only offer fruit canned in its own juice (no syrups), fresh, or frozen.
- We offer vegetables to children at least 2 times a day.
- We only offer vegetables steamed, boiled, roasted, or lightly stir-fried with little added fat.

Meats, Fats, and Grains

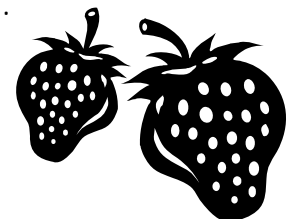
- We offer fried or pre-fried (frozen and breaded) meats (chicken nuggets) or fish (fish sticks) once a week or less.
- We offer fried or pre-fried potatoes (French fries, tater tots, hash browns) once a week or less.
- We offer high fat meats like sausage, bacon, hot dogs, or bologna once a week or less.
- We offer beans or lean meats at least once a day.
- We offer high fiber, whole grain foods at least 2X a day.
- We offer sweets or salty foods less than once a week or never.

Beverages

- We make drinking water freely available so children can serve themselves both inside and outdoors.
- We rarely offer sweetened drinks other than 100% juice.
- We serve only 1% or skim milk to children age 2 or older.
- We do not have soda or other vending machines on site.

Menus and Variety

- We have 3 week (or greater) cycle menu that allows for seasonal changes.
- Our menus include healthy items from a variety of cultures.
- Our menus include a combination of new and familiar foods.



Feeding Practices

- Our staff help children determine if they are full before removing their plate.
- Our staff help children determine if they are still hungry before serving additional food.
- Our staff gently and positively encourage children to try a new or less favorite food.
- We do not use food to encourage positive behavior.

Foods Offered Outside of Regular Meals and Snacks

- We provide and enforce written guidelines for healthier food brought in and served for holidays and celebrations (see below).
- We celebrate holidays with mostly healthy foods or non-food treats.
- Our fundraising efforts consist of selling non-food items only.

Supporting Healthy Eating

- Our staff join children at the table for meal times.
- We are always serve meals family style.
- Our staff always consume the same food and drink as the children.
- Our staff rarely eat less healthy foods in front of the children.
- We provide visible support for good nutrition in 2-to 5-year old classrooms and common areas through use of posters, pictures, and displayed books.
- Our staff often talk informally with the children about trying and enjoying healthy foods.

Nutrition Education for Staff, Children, and Parents

- We provide training opportunities for staff on nutrition (other than food safety and food programs guidelines) 2X per year or more.
- We provide teacher-directed nutrition education to the children, through a standardized curriculum, 1X per week or more.
- We provide nutrition education to parents 2X per year or more.

Physical Activity:

Active Play and Inactive Time

- We provide at least 120 minutes of active play time to all children each day.
- We provide opportunities for outdoor play 2 or more times per day.
- We ensure that children are rarely seated for periods of more than 30 minutes.
- We do not withhold active play time for children who misbehave. Instead, we provide additional active play time for good behavior.
- We rarely show television and videos.



Play Environment

- We provide fixed play equipment (tunnels, climbing and balancing equipment) that is extensive and varied for all children.
- We provide portable play equipment (wheeled toys, balls, hoops, ribbons) that is diverse and available for children to use at the same time.
- We make outdoor portable play equipment freely available to all children all of the time.
- Outdoor play space includes an open, grassy area and a track/path for wheeled toys.
- Indoor play space is available for all activities, including running, when weather does not permit outdoor play.

Supporting Physical Activity

- Our staff often encourage children to be active and often join children in active play.
- We provide visible support for physical activity in 2-to 5-year old classrooms and common areas through use of posters, pictures, and displayed books.

Physical Activity Education

- We provide training opportunities for staff on physical activity (other than playground safety) 2X per year or more.
- We provide teacher-directed physical activity education for children, through a standardized curriculum, 1X per week or more.
- We offer physical activity education to parents 2X per year or more.

Healthy Guidelines for Celebrations

Please help us encourage life long healthy habits among our children. We encourage parents to join us for their child's birthday or other special occasion and bring food to help celebrate. Please select or prepare healthier food options that your child enjoys. Suggestions include:

- favorite fruits
- lower fat baked goods (ex. mini muffins with icing)
- favorite dishes that aren't necessarily desserts
- foods with special family or cultural significance
- healthy foods in fun shapes

Also, consider celebrating with favorite stories, music, games, or activities. Often the most important thing to your child is that you took the time to help plan something special. Please talk with the Director if you have questions or need ideas. We know that it's hard to break old habits like cake, ice cream, and candy, but give it a try!