



The Pines Preschool



Nutrition and Food/Drink Policy

Rationale

At the Pines School Based Preschool, we aim to promote healthy eating and encourage children to make healthy food choices in a safe, supportive environment. Snack and lunch times at Preschool are integral parts of each day. We encourage children to develop healthy eating habits, and also build on social skills, such as initiating conversations, asking questions and using manners.

National Quality Standards

Regulation 77 (Health and hygiene), 78 (Food and beverages) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2018

Quality Area 2: Children's health and Safety

At our preschool:

- Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child

Our policy is based on the *Australian Dietary Guidelines for children and adolescents* and *South Australian Government's "Rite Bite Strategy."* This strategy emphasises the need for children to:

1. Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods
2. Eat plenty of breads, cereals, vegetables and fruits
3. Include dairy products such as milk, cheese and yoghurt in their diet
4. Eat foods that are low in saturated fat
5. Balance food intake with physical activity
6. Eat only moderate amounts of foods containing sugar
7. Choose low salt foods and use salt sparingly
8. Be aware of and avoid foods that can cause adverse reactions (allergies) and not to share foods with others

The purpose of this policy:

1. Educators support children to develop healthy eating habits
2. Promote children's understanding of how food affects health and the relationship between healthy eating and good health
3. Ensure that food provided at the Preschool and food brought from home reflect the "Rite Bite Strategy."
4. Support children who have health and cultural needs relating to special diet requirements
5. Raise awareness of good nutrition principles

Nutrition Strategies

Snack Time Guidelines:

Please provide your child with a healthy snack such as:

- Fresh/dried fruits
- Vegetables
- Cheese, yoghurt
- Crackers, rice cakes

Our policy **does not** include items such as cakes, chips, lollies, chocolate, custard, sweet biscuits, cordial, soft drinks. If your child brings an unhealthy snack they will be asked to put it back in their bags to eat when they get home. Families will be notified with a note stating an alternative healthy snack to be provided instead.

We are a nut aware Preschool. Each year at Preschool, we have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts and/or foods containing nuts (this also includes Nutella and peanut butter). It is important for families to check food labels to ensure all foods are nut free.

Lunch Time Guidelines:

Families are encouraged to provide their child with a healthy lunch. For example:

- Sandwiches containing fillings such as cheese, fresh vegetables, butter, vegemite. No Nutella or peanut butter
- Cultural foods are acknowledged and accepted
- Children are encouraged to drink water with their lunch

Drink Guidelines:

Families are encouraged to provide their child with a named drink bottle of **water only**. We also provide a cup of water to children who do not have a drink bottle. We will refill drink bottles when they are almost empty.

Food safety in our Preschool

- We provide hand washing facilities for all adults and children
- We promote appropriate hand washing procedures with children
- We promote healthy foods and healthy eating through the use of fresh produce from our garden and through cooking experiences
- We do not have facilities to appropriately re-heat food
- Educators will follow safe hygiene practices when handling food (washing hands, wearing food handling gloves)

This Policy has been developed in consultation with The Pines School based Preschool educators, families and Governing Council.

References:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2018.
- National Quality Standards, 2018.
- 'Australian Dietary Guidelines for children and adolescents', 2003, <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/>
- 'Rite bite, easy guide to healthy food and drink supply for South Australian Schools and Preschools', DECD, 2015.
- Department for Education policies and procedures available at: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/department/policies>

Policy review

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

To be reviewed:

2024