



# Woolooware Outside School Hours Care

(02) 9523 9971  
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## FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Our service believes that good nutrition is essential for each child's healthy growth and development. For this reason, the service will provide nutritious, good quality food that is consistent with the *Dietary Guidelines for Children and Young People in Australia*. We will aim to provide a relaxed and enjoyable environment for children to eat their meals and snacks ("My Time, Our Place" 1.1). All food served at the service will be consistent with the child's own dietary requirements, and take into consideration the children's like and dislikes as well as meet any cultural requirements of families ("My Time, Our Place" 3.2). High standards of hygiene will be maintained throughout all food preparation. We will encourage the development of the children's good eating habits through the modelling and reinforcing of healthy eating and nutrition practices by educators. Families will be encouraged to share recipes and traditions to enrich the variety and enjoyment of food by the children and support the children's development of respect for and understanding of diversity ("My Time, Our Place" 1.3). Where possible we will seek out opportunities to learn about growing our own food and collaborate with children to produce our own opportunities to use food we have grown ourselves in our menu planning ("My Time, Our Place" 3.4).

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Education and care Services National Law and Regulations:

S167

R77, 78, 79, 80, 109

National Quality Standard:

Standard - 2.1

Elements - 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3

Other Service Policies/Documentation:

Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy, Management of Animals Policy

Other:

Australian Dietary Guidelines for children and adolescents, National *Food Standards Code (FSANZ)*, *Food Act 2003 (NSW)*, *Food Regulation 2010 (NSW)*, NRG@OOSH (Network of Community Activities), Parent Handbook, Staff Handbook, Menus

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **a) Nutrition**

- A menu, developed using the principles set out in the Australian Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents, will be on display for families and children at all times and be an accurate representation of the food and drink that is being served.
- All children's individual needs such as allergies, cultural requirements, and health needs etc. will be addressed in the menus and families advised if they will be required to supply specific foods for their child.



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- Food and drink consistent with the menu will be provided for morning and afternoon tea as well as small nutritious snacks available as necessary.
- Fresh drinking water will be available at all times for the children and educators.
- Children and families will be encouraged to share family and cultural traditions, ideas and recipes to contribute to the menu.
- Education of healthy eating habits will be developed through ongoing example, specific activities, notices, posters and information sheets to families.
- The denial of food will never be used as a punishment.
- Children's cooking activities will be encouraged to develop life skills.
- Educators are encouraged to attend regular professional development and or required to stay up to date on nutrition and food safety practices and make changes to practice as a result.

## b) Food Safety

- All food will be prepared and stored in a hygienic manner as per the current Australian New Zealand Food Standards.
- Opened food will be stored in tightly sealed containers, away from any chemicals.
- Kitchen equipment will to be cleaned and stored appropriately.
- Surfaces are cleaned and sanitised before and after food preparation and eating.
- All perishable foods will be stored in the refrigerator and the temperature should be less than 5°C.
- Children will be encouraged not to share their drinking and eating utensils.
- Tongs and spoons will be used for the serving of food. Where possible, educators will encourage children to serve their own food and drinks to encourage the development of their food handling skills as well as acknowledging their growing sense of independence.
- All cups, plates and utensils will be washed in hot, soapy water.
- Children should be seated while eating or drinking.
- Educators can choose whether to wear gloves or not provided that effective hand washing is being implemented. If gloves are used, care must be taken to avoid contaminating food by only using them for one continuous task and then discarding them. Gloves must be removed, discarded, hands washed and the gloves replaced with a new pair before handling food and before working with ready to eat food after handling raw food.
- Gloves must be removed and discarded after using the toilet, coughing, sneezing, using a handkerchief, eating, drinking or touching hair, scalp or body. They will then be replaced if food preparation continues.
- All rubbish or left over food is to be disposed of immediately in lidded bins and bins emptied daily and regularly cleaned with disinfectant.
- Containers are to be cleaned and stored appropriately to ensure pests are not able to contaminate them.
- The service will regularly review and evaluate food handling practices in line with current best practice guidelines from recognised authorities.



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