

Handling of Linen, Food & Utensils Policy

Policy

Early Adventures Child Care Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Early Adventures Child Care Centre will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Toronto Public Health regarding the handling of snacks and lunches to children in the program as well as the handling of linens and utensils. All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premise and engage in the programs must adhere to the following procedures.

Procedures

As required by Toronto Public Health, Early Adventures must follow specific regulations when preparing and serving food to children in the program in addition to proper procedures for the handling of utensils and linens within the centre.

All meals and snacks will be prepared in the kitchen or in the food prep area. Only one staff should be in the area if possible. Early Adventures Child Care Centre requires that when food is being prepared and served, a disposable or medical grade mask is worn. Gloves are not necessary if hands can be washed prior to preparing and serving.

All food will be portioned from the kitchen/food prep area and will be placed in a bin labelled for each classroom. Milk/Water pitchers can be poured in the classroom by the assigned teacher in the room. At this time no children will be self serving any food items including drinks.

Early Adventures Child Care Centre will ensure the following procedures are followed:

- Bedding and blankets must be assigned to an individual child, stored separately to prevent accidental sharing and in manner that prevents contamination. Launder blankets/sheets weekly and as often as necessary (i.e. when soiled)
- Cots are disinfected weekly, or as needed (if soiled)
- Children will not share any food, water bottles or personal items and belongings. Personal items must be labelled with each child's name.
- Meals and snacks will be served in individual portions to the children

- Children and employees will practice social distancing while eating wherever possible
- No self-serve or sharing of food will occur
- Milk/water can be served to children in each classroom however; one teacher should be assigned for each meal service.
- No utensils or food items (e.g. serving spoon) should be shared
- No food provided from the family unless where required. Special precautions are to be put in place if this is the case.
- Children must not prepare food or provide food that could be shared with others.
- Proper hand hygiene will be practiced during food preparation, before, and after eating.
- One employee will be assigned the task of filling water bottles for children. Water bottles will be disinfected prior to refilling.
- Foods are prepared, handled , stored and served in a safety manner requirements in Food Premises Regulation 493/17
- Multi use utensils must be cleaned and sanitized between uses as per requirements in Food Premises Regulation 493/17

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment and at any time where a change is required.

Revised: February 28, 2022.