

Policy Number: N 006	Title: Family Style Dining
Performance Standard: 1302.31(e)(2) USD 418 BOE Policy:	Original Date: 8/2006 Review Date: 5/2020
	Policy Council Approval/Revision: 12/2017

POLICY:

Snack and meal times must be structured and used as learning opportunities that support teaching staff-child interactions and foster communication and conversations that contribute to a child’s learning, development, and socialization. Programs are encouraged to meet this requirement with family style meals when developmentally appropriate. The Early Childhood Program must also provide sufficient time for children to eat, not use food as a reward or punishment, and not force children to finish their food.

PROCEDURE:

All children and adults wash hands prior to eating. Breakfast and lunch are served in the cafeteria. Snacks are served in the classroom. Adults will sit with the children as models. During snack time, children are encouraged to serve themselves. Positive social interaction is facilitated. Food is not used as a reward or punishment.

Dining is a socialization time. Conversations should have social rather than academic tone. Special needs of children (seating, adapted utensils, menu changes, etc.) are addressed through consultation with health professionals. Sufficient time is allowed for each child to eat.