



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
POLICY

NO. 01 NS ISSUE 2

PAGE 1 of 1

EFFECTIVE: 08-13-12
Updated

SUBJECT:

Hot Food Handling

APPROVED: 09-24-10

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PURPOSE

To provide and send food to the classroom in a manner that is safe for children to serve themselves family style.

POLICY

All Food Service Workers are required to ensure that food sent to the classroom is safe for children to handle while Teaching Staff and Volunteers in the classroom oversee and role model family style meal service for children.

REFERENCE

Head Start Performance Standards 1304.23 (c)(4) and 1304.23 (e) (1)

PROCEDURE

In the kitchen Food Service Workers are responsible for:

1. Following vendor cooking procedures located on product labels or in Food Specification Manual.
2. Cooking foods to an internal temperature of 165° F.
3. Recognizing that cooking above 165° adversely affects quality and cooling times of entrees.
4. Monitoring cooking temperatures by following appropriate procedures for using and sanitizing probe thermometers.
5. Accurately documenting cooking temperature, time taken on the Food Temperature Log and action taken if foods are temping above 165°F.
6. Allowing foods to cool ensures that food is not sent to the classroom at a temperature above 140°F.
7. Venting containers prior to deliver to classroom. If food is transported outside, venting will occur in the classroom.

In the classroom Food Service Workers will:

1. Randomly check internal temperatures using the digital probe thermometer to ensure food is safe for children to serve. Verbally warn teachers of any food that is still too hot for children to serve.
2. Sanitize thermometer appropriately.

In the classroom Teaching Staff will serve as the final check by:

1. Placing all cooked entrée on the table
2. Removing all cellophane seals from cooked items, stirring to allow further cooling for children to serve themselves.
3. Venting single service packages like the burritos, hot pockets, quesadillas prior to children serving themselves.