



## Classroom Volunteers & Mealtime

### Overview

**Purpose** The purpose is to encourage classroom volunteers to actively participate in mealtimes to uphold the family style meal procedure.

**Reference** The policies and regulations referenced are:  

- Head Start Performance Standards: §1302.51(a)(1), 1302.31(e)(2)
- Community Care Licensing: §101227(1)(a)

**Policy overview** All toddlers, preschool children, and assigned classroom staff, including volunteers, eat together family style and share the same menu to the extent possible.

**Contents** The following is a table of contents.

Topic	See Page
Volunteers & Mealtime	2

## Volunteers & Mealtime

---

### Policy

Encourage volunteers who are present during mealtimes to participate in all aspects of family style meals.

---

### Food handler cards

Classroom volunteers are not required to have a Food Handler's Card to participate in meals. If they help a child serve a meal, they must have a Food Handler's Card.

Individuals participating in the Apprentice and WEX programs are required to have a Food Handler's Card since their ultimate goal is employment.

Any volunteer working in the kitchen is required to have a current San Bernardino County Food Handler's Card.

---

### Reminders

Remind volunteers to:

- Practice the same hand washing procedures as children and staff
  - Use gloves when opening milk or touching food directly
  - Allow children to serve themselves during mealtimes and assist as needed
  - Keep meal times positive and conversation child focused
  - Eat child size portions with the children
-