



Charlie Crist
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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Child Care Food Service FAQs

1) When must a hair net/restraint be worn? Answer: A hair net or other similar hair restraining device must be worn by employees engaged in food preparation. A hair net is not needed when employees dispense food/snacks in the classroom, when a cooking experience lesson is being given, or when feeding infants in an infant room.

2) What is required of a family style dining setup? Answer: The children dispensing the food, or setting the table must wash their hands prior to doing so, and must be under supervision at all times to ensure sanitary practices are being followed. When staff are dispensing food family style, no hair net is required, but proper handwashing prior to dispensing is required.

3) I have a non-food center, can I assist the children with the meals provided from home? Answer: Yes, as long as the assistance does not involve heating, mixing, cutting or altering the food in any way. Opening packages, inserting straws, etc is permitted with the use of good hygienic practices.

4) Can homemade baked goods be served in the classroom for birthdays, etc? Answer: Yes, but store bought products are strongly recommended. Home prepared items are not prepared in an approved location, and questions of liability could arise should there be an illness associated with their service.

5) When is the use of gloves required? Answer: The use of disposable gloves is not required at any time when involving food service. Disposable gloves must be worn if food service workers have long fingernails, or wear jewelry on their hands. Frequent, handwashing using proper technique is required.

6) Is the warming of baby food and formula allowed in the infant room? Answer: Yes, provided there is a dedicated handwashing sink separate from the diaper changing sink in the area where this is taking place with hot and cold running water. There must be adequate separation between the food warming area and the diaper changing area.



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Pinellas County Health Department Food Service Classifications

Non-Food- The center provides no food/drinks/snacks for the children. All food/drinks/snacks are provided by the parent/guardian of each child daily. No long term storage of food should occur. Center employees may assist children with their lunch/snack with the use of good hygienic practices, handwashing, etc. Heating, mixing, cutting or altering the food provided by the parents in any way is not permitted.

Limited Food/Snack/Catered- The center provides snacks while meals are provided by the parent/guardian or catered in by a licensed catering facility. The snacks that are to be provided are to be non-potentially hazardous in nature. Heating, mixing, cutting or altering the food provided by the parents in any way is not permitted (Warming of baby food or formula is permitted). The use of multi use utensils such as forks, spoons pitchers, can openers, etc are prohibited under this type of license as no approved ware washing equipment is required. A dedicated hand washing sink and janitorial sink with hot and cold running water are required. Hot and cold running water is also required in the rest room handwashing sink utilized by the food service staff members.

Full Food/Catered- The center provides meals and snacks or has them brought in by a licensed caterer. The type of foods that can be prepared is dependent upon the types of food service equipment that is present, and may require the input of the local fire authority. The use of multi use utensils is permitted. A dedicated hand washing sink, janitorial sink, and approved ware washing equipment are required. Multi use utensils can be washed and sanitized with either a three compartment sink or a commercial style dish machine. Hot and cold running water is required at all previously mentioned sinks as well as at the employee use rest room hand washing sink.