

**Ocean Shores Preschool Inc.**

Shara Boulevard, North Ocean Shores  
 PO Box 80, Ocean Shores NSW 2483  
 Ph: 02 6680 1438  
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# Nutrition & Food Safety Policy

## National Quality Standard (NQS)

Ocean Shores Preschool recognises the importance of healthy eating to promote the growth and development of young children and is committed to supporting the healthy food and drink choices of children in our care. It is acknowledged that the early childhood setting has an important role in supporting families in healthy eating. Our Service therefore recognises the importance of supporting families to provide healthy food and drink to their children.

Ocean Shores Preschool is committed to implementing the healthy eating key messages outlined in the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Ocean Shores Preschool supports and promotes the NSW Health initiative *Munch & Move* and utilise the Australian Government's *Get Up & Grow-Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood* and *Eat for Health* resources.

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1	<b>Health</b>	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	<b>Health practices and procedures</b>	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	<b>Healthy lifestyles</b>	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.

## Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
78	Food and beverages
79	Service providing food and beverages
90	Medical conditions policy
91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

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**PURPOSE**

It is essential that Ocean Shores Preschool partners with families to provide education about nutrition, and promote healthy eating habits for young children to positively influence their health and wellbeing. Dietary and healthy eating habits formed in the early years are shown to continue into adulthood and can reduce the risk factors associated with adult chronic conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Ocean Shores Preschool recognises the importance of healthy eating for the growth, development and wellbeing of young children and is committed to promoting and supporting healthy food and drink choices for children in our care. This policy affirms our position on the provision of healthy food and drink while children are in our care and the promotion and education of healthy choices for optimum nutrition.

Ocean Shores Preschool believes in providing a positive eating environment that reflects dietary requirements, cultural and family values, and promotes lifelong learning for children, as we commit to implementing and embedding the healthy eating key messages outlined in the NSW Health's *Munch & Move* program into our curriculum and to support the *National Healthy Eating Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings* outlined in the *Get Up & Grow* resources.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to children, families, staff, and management of Ocean Shores Preschool

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Ocean Shores Preschool has a responsibility to help children to develop good food practices and approaches, by working with families and educators.

All food prepared by the Service or families will endeavour to be consistent with the Australian Dietary Guidelines.

Meal times reflect a relaxed and pleasant environment where educators engage in meaningful conversations with children. When possible, educators will role model healthy eating behaviour.

Food will be prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Program. All kitchens and food preparation areas shall comply with Food Standards Australia and New Zealand. (FSANZ)

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### Encourage and support breastfeeding and appropriate introduction of solid foods

Ocean Shores Preschool will:

- Provide a suitable place within Ocean Shores Preschool where mothers can breastfeed their babies or express breast milk. The space chosen needs to be respectful for the mother and those around her.

### Promote healthy food and drinks based on the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and the Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents.

Ocean Shores Preschool will:

#### ***Where food is provided by the Ocean Shores Preschool:***

- Munch and Crunch is provided that is either preschool grown or surplus to home fruit and vegetables that is washed and prepared by educators.
- Educators will ensure effective hygiene procedures ie. Gloves and washing hands as necessary.

#### ***Where food is brought from home:***

- Provide information to families on the types of foods and drinks recommended for children and suitable for children's lunchboxes.
- Encourage children to eat the more nutritious foods provided in their lunchbox, such as sandwiches, fruit, cheese and yoghurt, before eating any less nutritious food provided.
- Discourage the provision of highly processed snack foods high in fat, salt and sugar and low in essential nutrients in children's lunchboxes. Examples of these foods include lollies, chocolates, sweet biscuits, muesli bars, breakfast bars, fruit filled bars, chips, oven-baked crackers and corn chips.

Management/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

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- Ensure water is readily available for children to drink throughout the day in both the indoor and outdoor environment.
- Be aware of children with food allergies, food intolerances and special diets and consult with families to develop individual management plans.
- Ensure young children do not have access to foods that may cause choking.
- Ensure all children remain seated while eating and drinking.
- Ensure all children are always supervised children while eating and drinking.
- Ensure age and developmentally appropriately furniture will be provided for each child.
- Not allow food to be used as a form of punishment or to be used as a reward or bribe.
- Not allow the children to be force fed without being required to eat food they do not like or more than they want to eat.
- Establish healthy eating habits in the children by incorporating nutritional information into our program.
- Talk to families about their child's food intake and voice any concerns about their child's eating.
- Encourage parents to the best of our ability to continue our healthy eating message in their homes.
- Ensure fridge and freezer temperatures are taken daily, working in compliance with the National Food Authority.

### Storing, preparing and serving food in a hygienic manner promoting hygienic food practices.

Ocean Shores Preschool

will:

- Ensure gloves (or food tongs) are used by all staff handling 'ready to eat' foods
- Ensure children and staff wash and dry their hands (using soap, warm running water and single use or disposable towels) before handling food or eating meals and snacks.
- Separate cutting boards are used for raw meat and chicken, fruit and vegetables and utensils and hands are washed before touching other foods.
- Discourage children from handling other children's food and utensils.

### Creating a positive learning environment

Ocean Shores Preschool will:

- Ensure that educators sit with the children at meal and snack times to role model healthy food and drink choices and actively engage children in conversations.
- Choose water as a preferred drink

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- Endeavour to recognise, nurture and celebrate the dietary differences of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Create a relaxed atmosphere at mealtimes where children have enough time to eat and enjoy their food as well as enjoying the social interactions with educators and other children.
- Respect each child's appetite. If a child is not hungry or is satisfied, do not insist he/she eats.
- Be patient with messy or slow eaters.
- Encourage children to try different foods but do not force them to eat.
- Do not use food as a reward or withhold food from children for disciplinary purposes.

### Service Program

Ocean Shores Preschool will:

- Foster awareness and understanding of healthy food and drink choices through including in the children's program a range of learning experiences encouraging children's healthy eating.
- Encourage children to participate in a variety of 'hands-on' food preparation experiences.
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in discovery learning and discussion about healthy food and drink choices.
- Embed the importance of healthy eating and physical activity in everyday activities and experiences

### Communicating with families

Ocean Shores Preschool will:

- Inform families upon orientation at the service that a copy of the Nutrition Policy is available on our website, through Childcares and a hard copy in the foyer folder.
- Provide opportunities for families to contribute to the review and development of the policy.
- Request that details of any food allergies or intolerances or specific dietary requirements be provided to Ocean Shores Preschool and work in partnership with families
- Communicate regularly with families about food and nutrition related experiences within Ocean Shores Preschool and provide up to date information to assist families to provide healthy food choices at home.
- Communicate regularly with families and provide information and advice on appropriate food and drink to be included in children's lunchboxes. This information may be provided to families

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in a variety of ways including factsheets, newsletters, during orientation, information sessions and informal discussion.

### Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority.
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- Early Years Learning Framework
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- Safe Food Australia, 2nd Edition. January 2001
- Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood
- Infant Feeding Guidelines 2012
- Australian Dietary Guidelines 2013
- Eat for health: Dept. Health and Ageing and NHMRC
- Food Safety Standards for Australia 2001
- Food Standards Australia and New Zealand Act 1991
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand Regulations 1994
- Food Act 2003
- Food Regulation 2004
- NSW Food Authority
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
- Dental Association Australia
- Australian Breast Feeding Association Guidelines
- Munch and Move- NSW Health initiative
- Revised National Quality Standard 2018

### Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2017	Further research has been conducted, updating the rationale and terminology throughout the policy.  Have incorporated embedding healthy eating and physical activity in the daily program	May 2018

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<b>October 2017</b>	Updated references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard	May 2018
<b>February 2018</b>	Terminology update in opening statement	
<b>May 2018</b>	Minor grammatical changes made to content. (Not critical to it's delivery)	May 2019