



FOOD BROUGHT INTO THE CENTER POLICY

Due to the life-threatening allergy to nut products that several of the children attending our center have been diagnosed with, Orchard Valley Learning Center does not allow any food brought into the center unless all of the following requirements are met.

- 1) Children who have special dietary needs may bring food into the center to supplement our menu, however these foods must be in original containers, sealed with a label and checked in each morning with an administrator in the office. We cannot heat, mix or alter the food brought in per Tri County Health Department regulations. Breakfast cereal and juice and milk will be available every day for \$1.00 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- 2) For birthday parties, you may bring in a treat but again it must be in the original, unopened container with a complete food label and checked in with an administrator in the office. We will celebrate occasional parties with either the teacher using some of her class budget to purchase treats providing enough funds are remaining after class supplies are purchased for the monthly activities or asking parents to donate a few dollars each time for the teacher to purchase treats. If you will be bringing in food items for a birthday party or individual celebration for your child, it would be a good idea to bring them the day before to be reviewed to avoid a disappointment on your child's birthday if the food items do not meet the requirements.
- 3) Absolutely every food item brought into the center and not prepared in our kitchen by our staff must be checked in with an OVLC administrator; reviewed while the parent is there; and initialed for approval by the administrator. Teachers will not be permitted to serve or allow a child to eat anything that does not come from our kitchen or is not approved with an administrator's initials. If after review the administrator is not fully comfortable that all requirements have been met to ensure the safety of allowing the food into the center, the food item cannot be left at the center. If a child brings food into the center in their backpack which has not been approved by an administrator, the food will be disposed of and the parent will be contacted.
- 4) When bringing these food items in please keep in mind that raw foods or unprocessed foods such as fruits, vegetable, and most meats are acceptable without a label. However a pre-made sandwich must accompany a label for the bread because it is processed in a manufacturing plant some of which state on the label that they also use nut products. Yogurt in the original container will most likely be approved while yogurt in a plastic container from

home will not. Mixed casseroles from home will not be approved because we have no way to verify what has gone into those dishes. Fast food meals brought in will have to be reviewed item by item as per our research for example hash browns are not fried in nut oils, but the granola in the yogurt parfaits includes nut products. It may require you to wait a few minutes while we look up a certain item on the company's website to determine the ingredients as they change oils that they cook with depending on current market prices. An item that may have been approved one time, may not be approved another time based on current information. Basically, the more simple or prepackaged the item the better chance there will be that we can serve it. If we cannot be certain of what is in a product or how it was processed, we cannot serve it.

5) We cannot store a week's worth of food in your child's cubby or our kitchen for space reasons, so you will have to bring individual servings each day.

Teachers are instructed to notify an administrator immediately if food is brought into the center.

Please understand this policy is in place for the safety of our children and disregard of this policy may result in termination of enrollment from our center.

NO PRODUCTS WITH NUTS, NUT OIL, OR MANUFACTURED IN A FACILITY THAT USES NUT PRODUCTS IS ALLOWED IN OUR CENTER.

ALL FOOD BROUGHT INTO THE CENTER MUST BE CHECKED IN AND SIGNED BY AN ADMINISTRATOR.

ALL OF THE POLICIES PERTAIN TO ALL WHO ENTER ORCHARD VALLEY LEARNING CENTER INCLUDING VISITORS, CURRENTLY ENROLLED FAMILIES AND STAFF.

As always, we will do what we can within reason to work with your family's needs, but will stand firm in our commitment to protect all of the children in our center. We greatly appreciate your support and adherence to these policies and procedures in a center wide effort to keep all of our children safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

The Staff of Orchard Valley Learning