

Dear Families:

As you may have heard, the Department of Children and Families – Child Development Division, has issued a new set of state regulations effective September 1, 2016. While many of these regulations have stayed the same, some have changed, as well as the standards that we must meet in order to maintain our four-star status, (increasing in the fall to 5 STAR.). Most of these will not affect families directly however, some will. We will be revising many of our policies due to the new licensing regulations and as these go into effect, you will be notified accordingly.

Effective September 1, 2016 EYCDC will be changing their policies in regards to children's lunches. To meet state licensing and the five-star standards children may no longer have the following items in their lunches or to be brought in for breakfast in the morning.

- **Juice.** Juices (even 100% juice) may no longer be served to children in their lunch or for their breakfast. We will continue serving milk for morning snack and lunch. Water will be served for afternoon snack and throughout the day. We understand many children cannot have cow's milk, milk substitutes are allowed with the exception of nut milk due to allergies. If your child does not drink a milk substitute, water will be provided for their lunch and snacks. *Exception to this: A medical reason for children to have juice with their lunch (ie. Constipation) with a doctor's note provided including the duration that the child needs to have juice.*
- **Fruit Snack and Fruit Leather.**
- **Chocolate Milk.**
- **Pudding and Jello.**
- **Chips.** Potato Chips, cheese Puffs (ie. Doodles, or Cheetos), Doritos will no longer be served.

Veggie Chips/Straw/Sticks, Pirate/Veggie Booty, Tortilla and Multi grain Chips are the exception to this rule.

- **Cookies and Other Sweet Treats:** Cookies, Rice Crispy Treats, Brownies, candy, etc...will no longer be served in their lunches. *Exception to this: Special occasions like birthdays, the art show, friendship day, school celebrations, etc...treats may be served in moderation.*
- **We will not serve children under the age of 3, popcorn or raisins, grapes and hotdogs not cut lengthwise or food containing nut products.**

As a reminder, EYCDC does not heat children's lunches. If you are providing a food that should be served warm, it should come to school in a thermos. We no longer have the ability to make easy serve foods like Easy Mac and Spaghetti's. Food must come ready to eat and we will always assume that lunches provided in their lunch box will be eaten cold.

****Any food related accommodations for a medical need must have a doctor's note to support it.** This is not an EYCDC policy, this is a state licensing requirement.