

The Growing Place Preschool **Food Safety and Nutrition Policy**

The Growing Place Preschool does not provide meals for any of the children in the program. However, daily healthy snacks will be served and will be provided by the families in all age groups. All snacks must be store bought; juices need to be 100% natural; milk and water are encouraged. Fresh fruits and vegetables need to be washed and cut in our kitchen only. A refrigerator is available in our kitchen for all perishable snack items. All classrooms have a cooler bag with ice packs as well. All perishable snacks and drinks will be kept in the refrigerator until snack time and returned as soon as snack is over.

Occasionally VPK and 3 year old classrooms do cooking activities to extend their curriculum. Safety precautions will be as follows: Children will not be near the stove/oven or be allowed near knives. All staff, parents and children will wash hands before and after cooking. Food gloves must be used when touching any of the food – including snack distribution. The items cooked must not be higher than 110 degrees F when served to the children.

Foods that are choking hazards to children under the age of 4 will not be served. This will include items such as: hot dogs, popcorn, whole grapes, nuts, chips and other foods that would be able to get stuck in a child's windpipe/trachea.

Every child enrolled will have a Food Experience permission form, signed annually, that is located in the child's file for the school year.

****Please note that for the 2020-2021 school year only, all families will provide their child with a daily snack and water bottle. There will not be any cooking experiences or refrigeration available until further notice as well****