

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 that include proper handwashing.

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 only required if food service workers have long fingernails, wear false fingernails, wear nail polish, or wear jewelry on their hands. Frequent handwashing using proper technique is required whether or not gloves are worn.

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.