MAHS direct service providers must implement snack and meal times in ways that support development and learning. For bottle-fed infants, this approach must include holding infants during feeding to support socialization. Snack and meal times must be structured and used as learning opportunities that support teaching staff-child interactions and foster communication and conversations that contribute to a child’s learning, development, and socialization. MAHS direct service providers will meet this requirement with family style meals when developmentally appropriate. Direct service providers must also provide sufficient time for children to eat, not use food as reward or punishment, and not force children to finish their food.

Adherence to the above regulations and this policy is subject to random audit by MAHS staff.