Dorothy Hughes Kindergarten Food and Nutrition Policy:

in line with the Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for South Australian Schools incorporating the Eat Well SA DECS Healthy Eating Guidelines (2004).*

Rationale
This preschool promotes safe, healthy eating habits in line with the Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for South Australian Schools and Preschools: and relates to the DECD wellbeing strategy.
We believe that early childhood is an important time for establishing lifelong, healthy eating habits and can benefit the children in three ways:
1. Short term: maximises growth, development, activity levels and good health.
2. Long term: minimises the risk of diet related diseases later in life.
3. Good nutrition contributes to good health and wellbeing and this is vital for positive engagement in learning activities.
Therefore:
• staff at this preschool model and encourage healthy eating behaviours
• food and drink are consumed in a safe, supportive environment for all children
• parents and caregivers are encouraged to supply healthy foods that fit within the Right Bite strategy for their children at preschool.
This food policy has been established after consultation with staff, governing council, and parents within the preschool community.

Curriculum
Our preschool’s food and nutrition curriculum:
• includes activities that provide children with knowledge, attitudes and skills to make positive healthy food choices and learn about the variety of foods available for good health
• includes opportunities for children to develop practical food skills like preparing and cooking healthy food
• integrates nutrition across the Early Years Learning Framework and National Quality Standards

The Learning environment
Children at our preschool:
• have fresh, clean filtered water available at all times and are encouraged to drink water regularly through the day
• are encouraged to eat routinely at scheduled break times
• eat in a positive, social environment with staff who model healthy eating behaviours
• use the preschool garden to learn about and experience growing, harvesting and preparing nutritious foods

Our preschool:
- provides rewards/encouragements that are not related to food or drink
- understands and promotes the importance of breakfast and regular meals for children
- teaches the importance of healthy meals and snacks as part of the curriculum
- is a breastfeeding friendly site

Food supply
Our preschool:
• encourages healthy food and drink choices for children in line with the Right Bite strategy
• encourages food choices which are representative of the foods of the preschool community
• ensures healthy food choices are promoted and are culturally sensitive and inclusive
• ensures a healthy food supply for preschool activities and events in line with the Right Bite strategy
• displays nutrition information and promotional materials about healthy eating
Snack time:
Parents and carers are encouraged to supply fruit and vegetables at snack time to:
- provide children with important minerals and vitamins
- encourage a taste for healthy foods.
- Encourage chewing which promotes oral muscle development
Fresh fruits, vegetables, yoghurt, salad, a slice of cheese or an extra sandwich are recommended for morning snack time. We ask parents to provide fruit to share for afternoon snack. We discourage foods such as raw carrots or popcorn as these present a choking hazard.

Lunch time:
Parents and carers are encouraged to supply appropriate food at lunch time, which could include: Sandwiches, salads, meat and cheeses, fruit, vegetables, yoghurt etc.
We are an allergy aware Kindergarten, so we ask that no food containing nuts or nut products be brought into our environment. This includes peanut butter, nutella and muesli bars.

Food and drinks provided to children:
- parents and carers are encouraged to provide healthy food and drink choices in line with the Right Bite strategy
- staff will ensure that food provided to children by the preschool is in line with the Right Bite strategy.

Food safety
Our preschool:
- promotes and teaches food safety to children as part of the curriculum
- encourages staff to access training as appropriate to the Right Bite Strategy
- provides adequate hand washing facilities for everyone
- promotes and encourages correct hand washing procedures with children and staff

Food-related health support planning
Our preschool:
- liaises with families to ensure a suitable food supply for children with health support plans that are related to food issues.

Working with families, health services & industry
Our preschool:
- invited parents and caregivers to be involved in the review of our whole of site food and nutrition policy
- provides information to families and caregivers about the Right Bite Strategy through a variety of ways including:
  - newsletters
  - policy development/review
  - information on enrolment
  - pamphlet/poster displays
- promotes the alignment of fundraising with the Right Bite strategy.

The staff at Dorothy Hughes Kindergarten thank you in advance for your support of this policy.
October 2012.