IC3 Feeding Policy

I. Purpose

One of the basic responsibilities of every parent and caregiver is to provide nourishing food that is clean, safe and developmentally appropriate for children. This policy addresses safety standards for feeding infants and children in child care. These safety standards can be found in the NY State Office of Children and Family Services Child Care Regulations and in Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all hourly and salaried employees.

III. Policy

A. All meals and snacks and their preparation, service, serving sizes and storage shall meet the requirements for meals of the child care component of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

B. The program must obtain a written statement from the parent of each infant in care setting forth the breast milk, formula and feeding schedule instructions for the infant and must be updated as changes are made. If formula is to be prepared by staff, the manufacturer's instructions must be followed.

C. Families of all infants and children of any age with special feeding needs (food intolerance, allergy, health concerns and/or medical conditions that require the use of specialized feeding equipment), will be provided each day with documentation on the type and quantity of food the child consumes.

D. All children with dietary restrictions based on a child's medical condition or religious beliefs of the family are exempt from CACFP meal pattern requirements and/or beverage requirements when instructed in writing by the parent to the program.

E. Where infant formula is required, such formula may be prepared and provided by the parent or by a designated staff person when agreed to in writing by the parent. The program must develop a plan for introducing age appropriate solid foods in consultation with the parent.

F. Infants 6 months of age or younger must be held while being bottle-fed. Infants older than six months must be held while being bottle fed until the infant consistently demonstrates the

capability of holding the bottle and ingesting an adequate portion of the contents thereof. The propping of bottle is prohibited.

G. All containers or bottles of breast milk, formula or other individualized food items must be clearly marked with the child's first and last name. Breast milk must have the date the milk was expressed. Unused portions of bottles or containers from which children have been spoon fed must be discarded after each feeding or placed in a securely tied plastic bag and returned to the parent at the end of the day. Staff will discard any unfinished AND unrefrigerated formula or breast milk after two hours.

H. IC3 provides 2 snacks and 1 meal a day. Snacks are mid-morning and mid-afternoon. A meal is served around 12:00. Children shall be offered food at intervals at least 2 hours apart and not more than 3 hours apart unless the child is asleep. Infants are on an individual schedule as determined by the infants need and parents instructions and may need to be fed at shorter intervals than every 2 hours to meet their nutritional needs.

I. Heating breast milk, formula and other food items for infants in a microwave oven is prohibited. All devices used to warm breast milk, formula or food for infants must be kept at a low temperature not exceeding 120* Foods for older children are heated in a microwave, the food must be stirred and allowed to reach serving temperature before serving them to prevent burns from hot spots. When microwaving food for non-infants, the use of plastic or polystyrene containers, plates, bags, or wraps are prohibited.

J. Each infant and toddler must be removed from the crib, playpen or cot and held or placed in an appropriate chair for feeding. Children may not be placed in the crib, cot or mat with a bottle, food or drink.

K. Staff, volunteers and/or interns must not hold an infant while removing a bottle or infant food from a warming device.