



*Lunch Time* will begin on our first <u>FULL session of class.</u>

Each day, lunch will be brought in from your home. Each morning, lunch boxes will be collected at drop off and brought directly to the dining area. <u>*Please pack lunches that the children can manage as independently as possible.*</u> Lunch time is a great time to practice some self-help skills!

Your child will need:

- Lunch in a lunch box or bag <u>clearly labeled on the OUTSIDE with your</u> <u>child's name</u>
- Reusable water bottle <u>clearly labeled on the OUTSIDE with your child's</u> <u>name</u>
- Include ice/cold pack in lunch box to keep cool
- Lunch should be packed in kid-friendly, easy to open containers
- Lunch *must be* nut-free (no nuts or nut butters- peanut, almond...)

## What to pack for lunch?

Does "school lunch" mean you must pack a sandwich? Heavens no! If lunch is free of nuts/nut products, the sky is the limit! Want to send something warm for lunch (chicken, pasta, soup...)? Put it in a thermos. Check out social media- there are many great ideas for healthy, yummy lunches. (We have seen everything: sandwiches, hard boiled eggs, pasta, cheese and crackers, and even anchovies!) Be careful not to offer too many choices – 3 to 4 is plenty. Fewer choices make it easier to "get down to eating". We gently encourage and remind the kids to eat that healthy lunch, so we all have fuel/energy for the rest of our day! (\*\*\*\* Please see reverse for some tips!\*\*\*\*)



## • PRACTICE!

- o At home, practice:
  - opening and closing your lunchbox
  - opening and closing your water bottle
  - opening and closing sandwich/lunch containers
  - eating lunch that has been packed in your lunchbox
- Pack Pre-K friendly foods/containers
  - o You may want to try:
    - Bento box
    - "snap" closure containers
    - Reusable pouches

(These reduce waste and are kid friendly)

- "Beware" of prepackaged food
  - o They can be difficult for preschoolers to open.
    - Put a snip in the bag/wrapper for easy opening!
- Remind your child which containers come back home and which go into the trash/recycling.