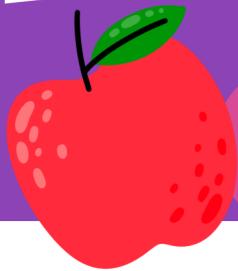


# Inspection Round-Up

**SOSCN**  
May 2024



## Snack Time



Comments regarding snacks and food are often mentioned with regards to quality indicators:  
1.1 Nurturing care and support  
1.3 Play and learning

### For services receiving higher grades in this area, typical comments included:

- Children were given independence to set their own table, serve their own snacks, pour their own drinks, clear up after themselves, and encouraged to wash their own dishes. Some services also gave children the chance to be involved in food preparation. Although this may be more difficult for larger services, some found serving snack in a buffet style helped give opportunity for independence, especially choice and self-serving.
- Snack times were relaxed, unhurried and sociable. Children were encouraged to sit at a table, creating opportunities to chat with their peers and staff. Those services that offered the greatest independence for children freed up staff to positively interact with children too or offer support where required.
- Children were involved in menu planning and snack choices.



### For services receiving lower grades in this area, typical comments included:

- Staff would prepare and serve most of the snacks to children, whilst doing all the cleaning up. This reduced the level of independence children had, and also meant staff were too busy to sit and chat to children about their day or offer support.
- The snack time environment was often rushed, too busy and noisy. This prevented snack times from being a relaxing and socialable experience.
- Children did not have a say in the snacks on offer, and there wasn't much variety. This meant some children would go hungry as they didn't like any of the snacks available, or didn't meet their cultural or dietary needs.

