

## BIRTHDAY CAKES & FOOD POLICY & GUIDELINES

This policy applies to all celebratory cakes, lollies or food leaving Lighthouse Centres.

### Birthday cake

We enjoy celebrating each child's birthday and realise its importance as they embark on yet another milestone. Our priority is to ensure all children's health and safety is maintained including children who are at risk of anaphylaxis. In order to prevent allergic reactions, we ask that families only provide the following:

#### **Store bought cupcakes with the ingredients clearly labelled on the packaging.**

Cupcakes will only be given if:

- They are store bought
- They are enclosed in sealed packaging
- Ingredients are listed on the packaging
- The 'use by' date is clearly labelled

The child whose birthday it is will be given their own cupcake with a candle, this is to prevent the spread of germs through saliva on the whole cake.

All other cakes will not be accepted due to health and safety regulations. Please be aware that some children cannot eat common foods due to various allergies including wheat, dairy, nut and egg products.

### Lolly bags and gift bags

Families also enjoy giving children individual lolly and gift bags to celebrate their child's birthday. Lighthouse Early Learning Centre acknowledges that sharing a celebration is important but does not endorse this practice. For the health and safety of the children, lolly bags including gift bags and toys are not accepted for distribution at Lighthouse Early Learning Centre. This policy is enforced due to the appropriateness of products contained in each lolly/gift bag.

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### Afternoon tea and late snacks

Further to our Duty of Care, Lighthouse ELC has an obligation to ensure all children are safe when they are leaving the centre. Please note all food must be consumed on premises to comply with food handling standards. All food should be consumed as soon as possible to avoid contamination and a build up of bacteria. Parents are welcome to wait until their child finishes eating their delicious snacks.