



Princeton Academy Case Study



Judie Adams

Director

princetonacademyforkids.com



Princeton Academy

"With OnCare and Minute Menu, our food program is easier and less time-consuming."

Food program automation saves hours on paperwork, giving director more time to focus on center goals and people.

At Colorado's Princeton Academy, children thrive in a culturally diverse environment built around a flexible, play-centered curriculum. None of this would be possible without nutritious meals to fuel their love of learning. With 90 percent of Princeton Academy's students hailing from low-income families, the center relies on federal food subsidies to keep their classrooms full of happy, alert, well-fed children. Managing those food subsidies, however, proved to be a time-consuming task for center director Judie Adams. With no room in the budget for an assistant, Adams and owner Kathryn Hammerbeck needed a quicker way to manage food subsidies, without increasing fees to families.

Integrated solution streamlines workload

Adams and Hammerbeck first tried an off-the-shelf software product that provided a few efficiencies but was not an integrated solution and featured little support. "I would still have to do so much data entry for the children's meals," lamented Adams. So they turned to OnCare™ Services' food program automation, an integrated solution that OnCare offers with food subsidy software provider Minute Menu, to streamline Adams' workload. With OnCare's Web-supported solution, her center's enrollment and attendance data (courtesy of OnCare's automated sign-in tools) is sent directly to Minute Menu for automatic processing. Minute Menu, in turn, merges this data with meal counts to check for claim errors.

Quick results

Adams saw an immediate drop in the number of hours she needed to manage the food subsidy program. She no longer has to compare attendance information to meal reporting, because OnCare™ food program automation does it all in one step. "I used to have to gather sign-in/out data on paper, as well as meal data sheets, two forms that we'd have to look at every month. Then I'd have to total all meal counts each week from the food programs, count and add it up, then total it at the end of the month. Now it's all automated. It's a lot easier, and it's saving me a lot of time," Adams reported.

OnCare™ food program automation also addressed one of Hammerbeck's biggest concerns: accuracy. Because audits and missed or delayed claims can wreak havoc with a center's cash flow, it's vital to the health of the business to avoid inaccuracies in the process. "There's more than just food expenses. The state will look at how much I pay cooks and spend on kitchen supplies," she noted, and such added expenses need to be carefully tracked to make sure they don't exceed allotted amounts. The OnCare system can track expenses against reimbursements and highlight deficient or non-compliant areas. This elegant solution prevents mistakes and helps Hammerbeck sleep better at night.

But the biggest benefit is that Adams spends far less time managing food subsidy claims, which required a little getting used to. "I feel funny not having to enter all the children's menus each week, like I should be doing something. But it's a relief not to have to. With Minute Menu and OnCare, it's easier and less time-consuming," she noted. This leaves her with more hours to work with her staff, improve quality in the classroom, meet with families and students, and make sure that Princeton Academy fulfills its goal as a place where every child is welcome.

**Want to learn how your business can benefit from OnCare™ food program automation?
Contact us today. Call toll free 1-866-921-4267, send an
email to info@oncareservices.com, or visit www.OnCareServices.com.**