

Personnel Protection Equipment Policy

Early Adventures Child Care Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Early Adventures Child Care Centre will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

In order to help reduce the risk of respiratory infections (including COVID-19), all employees are required to follow recommended procedures with regard to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when performing specific tasks as outlined in Public Health guidance . The type of PPE that is required is dependent on the specific tasks the employee is taking part in. All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premise and engage in the programs must adhere to the following procedures. The adherence to wearing PPE when required will ensure the safety and well-being of staff, children and families.

Policy

All employees who are working in our locations are required to follow required guidance and regulation from Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education regarding the use of PPE for certain tasks. Employees are required to wear PPE when screening the children at the front door, when escorting the children to their classroom.

Early Adventures Child Care Centre will provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use by staff when necessary. When possible, we will maintain a two-week supply of PPE at all times.

Masks do not replace the need for hand washing, and staying home when sick.

MASKING & PPE FOR STAFF

Child care staff are encouraged to wear a medical mask and/or an N-95 mask when indoors, but are respectful of each staff member's individual choice to mask, or unmask.

Masking is required:

- cleaning and disinfecting blood or bodily fluid spills if there is a risk of splashing or droplets
- Caring for a sick child, or a child showing symptoms of illness

A face shield does not provide equivalent protection to a mask. A mask should be worn, and then, a face shield/visor or goggles on top of that.

In addition to the previously mentioned, use of PPE is required when:

- Employees conducting the screening and escorting the children into the program will be wearing a medical mask and/or an N-95 mask
- Kitchen staff preparing food will wear a mask. Gloves will be worn when required, but are not necessary as proper hand washing can be performed
- Employees who are preparing the disinfectant solution are required to wear appropriate PPE including gloves and a mask.

Gloves must be worn when it is anticipated that hands will be exposed to mucous membranes, broken skin, tissue, blood, bodily fluids, secretions, excretions, contaminated equipment, or environmental surfaces.

Masking & PPE for Children

Masking for children is optional, encouraged but not required.

If your child is wearing a mask please ensure to provide 5 masks each day.

Masks will be changed if visibly soiled, damp, or damaged.

Children in the toddler program are **not** required or encouraged to mask.

Children and Staff practise proper hand hygiene before taking off their mask and before putting it back on.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment and at any time where a change is required.

Revised: March 30, 2022.