

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 and when cleaning the environment and the laundry. Any visitor who enters the location, including any authorized visitors such as Public Health, and Ministry of Education must wear full PPE when visiting the program. 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.

All children in the child care centre will follow TDSB mask policy for their age group during child care hours. Preschoolers will be strongly encouraged to follow the TDSB mask policy for FDK and staff will help children adjust to consistent mask wearing indoors, with possible exceptions for health and developmental reasons. We understand that face coverings may not be tolerated by everyone based on underlying health and behaviour issues.

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

MASKING & PPE FOR STAFF

Child care staff are required to wear a medical mask and/or an N-95 mask at all times when indoors (except when eating or if alone in a private space) unless exempt.

Child care staff are recommended to wear medical masks outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Eye protections (visors or goggles) is required for individuals working in close contact with children who are not wearing face protection (toddlers, and some preschoolers)

Masking and eye protection is required at other times when physical distancing cannot be maintained:

- 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
- Providing direct care (e.g feeding, assisting a child with hand hygiene)
- Consoling an upset child
- Assisting a child with changing during washroom routine

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 must be wearing full Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including disposable gowns, gloves, masks and shields.
- Employees who are sanitizing the high touch points & washrooms as well will also be wearing full PPE.
- 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 goggles.

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

Parents are responsible for providing 5 masks each day as well as a clean paper baggie for storing the masks when not in use.

Face coverings will be changed if visibly soiled, damp, or damaged.

Children in kindergarten and school age programs are required to wear a medical, non-medical, cloth mask or face covering while indoors at the child care setting or in hallways with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.

Children in the preschool program are strongly encouraged to wear a medical, non-medical, cloth mask or face covering while indoors at the child care setting or in hallways with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions

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

Children are not required to wear masks outdoors but physical distancing should be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible. Masks should be put on before going inside.

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: February 28, 2022.