

COVID GUIDELINES & MASK WEARING POLICIES

Beginning September 21st, 2020, children in this program are mandated by the Office of Early Childhood to wear face masks. This policy will continue during the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies unless earlier modified by the Commissioner of Early Childhood.

These policy changes are implemented within the context of a system of protections to address disease prevention including social distancing, good ventilation, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, frequent hand cleaning, limited group size (cohorting), and efficient identification, isolation, and exclusion of sick students and staff.

Morning Arrival

Children *must arrive to camp wearing their face mask* (upon check-in). Miss Natalie, our head teacher, will be greeting families upon arrival and evaluating the children for any signs of respiratory distress. We will have a small tent/table setup right inside of the back-entry gate. No one is permitted to use the front entry way during the COVID crisis. Everything in the back lot is handicap accessible for the check-in process.

Only one family may come to the check-in table at a time. Those waiting to be checked in will space themselves 6ft apart along our fence. Parents/Pick Up People bringing the child to the check-in area are required to have a face mask (must cover both your nose and mouth). Upon checking in, you'll share your phone number with us so we can check your child in. Then, we will take your child's temperature and walk them to their classroom. Parents are not be allowed in the building during the COVID crisis.

* You should consider taking your child's temperature prior to coming. We will also be taking temperatures prior to the start of our day and again at lunch time. Temperatures should read below 100.4 degrees. Teachers will do the same prior to their shift.

Removing Face Masks

We will teach children to remove their facemask by using one finger. They'll use their finger to slip inside of the ear loop and pull the facemask off. The mask will get hung up on a hook within their classroom. Then, the child will wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 30 seconds or use a small squirt of hand sanitizer when handwashing isn't an option (ex – after getting outside).

Putting Facemasks On

Children will wash their hands prior to putting their mask on. Children will retrieve their facemask from their hook within their classroom and put the ear loops around their ears using both hands. Children will then wash their hands or use a squirt of hand sanitizer. Face masks must cover both the nose and mouth and should not slide. Adjustable straps will help keep the mask in place. If a teacher needs to assist in putting masks on the children, she will wash her hands before and after as well.

Non-Compliance

If a child is not adhering to the mask-wearing policy, the teacher will give gentle reminders and coach the child on the importance of mask wearing.

If the child continues to resist wearing their mask, we will meet with the child's family to discuss techniques that may have been used at home to assist in getting the child to wear their mask. We may use a reward system if the child is really struggling with wearing their mask.

Children shall not be excluded from the program or isolated from their peers due to the child's non-compliance with mask wearing.

The exceptions to the mask requirement in camps and child care settings are as follows:

- i. A child with a documented medical condition, special health care need, or developmental need (such as sensory integration) for whom wearing a mask or face covering would be contrary to their health or safety is not required to wear a mask. Children who are newly enrolled within the past two months and are working toward mask wearing are permitted to remove their mask or face covering.
- ii. A child with a documented disability or special education need for whom wearing a mask or face covering would be contrary to their needs may be permitted exceptions. In addition, children and staff involved with certain special education and related services activities like speech and language therapy or where lip reading is required may remove a face-covering mask intermittently.
- iii. Children who have just turned three years old may have up to two months to acclimate to wearing a mask or face covering and support developmental readiness. Children under three are not required to wear a mask.
- iv. Mask breaks' will be planned and scheduled throughout the day. Mask breaks indoors must maximize physical distance between individuals, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance wherever possible. We will alternate taking turns with table activities and carpet activities. Those at the table will keep their mask on and we will put two separate carpet activities out that will be "individual mask break activities". We will rotate children through the carpet activities (or vice versa) to allow for sufficient mask break time. We will do our best to spend as much time outdoors as possible (masks are not required outdoors).

Exceptions to mask-wearing during the day

Children are not required to wear a mask while eating, sleeping, or while outdoors. Distance between children must be maximized, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance wherever possible when masks are removed.

The new phase-in plan (teaching children how to properly wear a mask, how to remove them, how to store them and dispose of them if necessary) for mask wearing with run through October 19, 2020. Our program can be cited for mis-use of mask wearing upon inspection during this time.

Storing Masks

We have purchased hooks for each classroom designated specifically for face masks. It's evident that some groups have to walk through the front room to get outside, therefore, children will keep their mask on until they get to the outside back porch. On the porch, we will hang a "mask clothesline" upon the wall within the children's reach. Each child will hang up their mask using a clothespin.

Quiet Time

Since our children don't typically sleep during our short quiet time, they'll keep their mask on unless we observe that they're starting to fall asleep. If they do fall asleep, their mask will be removed and we'll distance the child away from the group on a cot. (This is for preschoolers only).

Snack and Meal Time

We have added tables to our classrooms to make eating snack/meals doable with distancing. When children are finished eating, they'll retrieve their facemask, then wash their hands and put their lunch box away. We will try to have snack and lunch outdoors as much as possible during the warm months.

Ventilation System

- It is recommended that we keep system running at all hours of the school day. Teachers are not permitted to make changes to the system during the day.
- We will open windows for additional air flow
- Filters will be changed regularly

Program Response to Parents Who Refuse to Permit Their Child To Wear a Mask

Mask wearing is a mandatory state guideline during COVID. Families who do not want their children to comply with the new policies will not be permitted into the program.

Sanitizing Procedures

Staff must enter the building with their face mask on and wash their hands upon arrival for 20 seconds with warm water and soap. Once all staff is in the building, the head teacher will sanitize the door knobs. Each child will need to wash their hands for 20 seconds upon arrival. The teacher will set a timer at the start of each child's handwashing and supervise that hands are being washed well.

- After craft time, scissors, paintbrushes or capped markers will be put in the sink with bleach to be sanitized. They'll be wiped down and left there to air dry. This goes for any materials used during free play sessions as well. If they cannot be soaked, they will be sprayed.
- If books are being used, the teacher will put a handful of them out for the children. When the children are finished with them, the teacher will spray the bleach solution onto a paper towel and wipe down hard covered books and put them back on the shelf.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized with the bleach solution before any "event of transition" (going outside, going to farm, moving to a new activity, before/after lunch or snack, end of day).
- Teachers will spray each door knob before and after any transition and after a child has used the bathroom.

Before the start of our day

Tables, chairs, handwash stations, bathrooms, door knobs and sinks will be sprayed with a bleach solution and sit for 2 minutes before being wiped down. This will kill any virus aerosols that have settled from the previous day.

Mid-Day and End of day Sanitizing

- Sanitize tables and chairs (also before/after any transition)
- Sanitize toilets and sinks
- Spray toys and plastic bins with bleach solution
- Sanitize and wipe down all surfaces: bookcases, refrigerator handles, microwaves, Keurig's, kitchen sinks
- Sanitize all classroom interior/exterior door knobs
- Spray carpeted areas with bleach solution
- Wipe down TV remote controls with bleach solution
- Wipe down iPADS (check-in station and teacher iPADS) with bleach solution
- Wipe down laminated pick up list
- Wipe down walkie talkies with bleach solution

Handwashing Procedures

Teachers will wash their hands:

- Upon arrival
- Before touching a child
- Before and after eating
- After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
- After using the rest room
- Before handling food
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using any shared equipment
- Before/After assisting with putting face masks on children

Children will wash their hands:

- Upon arrival
- Before/after crafts/activities
- Before/after snacks or meals
- After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
- After using the bathroom
- After free play
- Before/After putting on their facemask

If a child exhibits sick symptoms while in our care

We will isolate the child to a “sick spot” immediately – likely a spot outside (weather permitting) with a staff member until pick up person arrives. If the weather doesn’t allow for the child to be outside, we will designate the tile area - an area in the front room that is 10+ feet away from any other children as the sick child area. They will sit or lay on a cot if they become ill. A parent or pick up person will need to be readily available to pick up their child within 60 minutes of our call.

After the child has left, everything in the “sick area” will be sanitized.

Respiratory Hygiene

We are consistently teaching children how to cover their mouth and nose anytime they cough or sneeze. Hands are washed immediately to follow. If a child has a runny nose, they will remove their mask, the teacher will assist in wiping their nose with a tissue and they child will put the mask back on. Both the teacher and child will wash their hands after the event.

Day to Day Operations

All teachers are mandated to wear a face covering throughout their entire shift, other than to eat their snacks/lunch or to drink water. They will have their snack/lunch in an area away from the children and will wear a face shield while doing so. We will eat lunch outside weather permitting. Teachers may take their face mask off for a few minutes at a time while outdoors and at least 10 feet away from children to allow for a “breather”.

We will allow a certain number of children in each area of the room and try to social distance as we’re able. For instance, 4 children per table, 3 on one carpet area and 3 on the other carpet area during free play times. Children can still choose what activities they would like to do, but we will break them up into smaller groups as the space allows.

During outside time, we will spray paint lines or use cones for separation of groups.

Overall, we will be extra cautious of the children’s actions at all times. If someone sneezes or coughs, we will sanitize any items that may have been touched. We plan to keep the kids outside as much as possible as the weather allows. We will take temperatures immediately following any sign of illness. We will also take everyone’s temperature prior to our morning circle time as well as mid-day before lunch time. Staff will also take their temperature prior to arriving to work.

Parents must supply sprayable sunscreen only. Please do not provide rub in sunscreen unless you absolutely have to. We will apply sunscreen to every child.

Front Porch Drop Box – You can drop anything, anytime in the drop box (payments, paperwork). It will be checked daily.

Group Sizes

We will maintain group sizes of no more than 16 children or the room's capacity (whichever is less).

Pick Up Procedure

This will work the same way as drop off, only you must have your license with you. The teacher checking children out will be on a "three-way cell phone call" with the teachers in the addition and in the front room so we can retrieve your child if they aren't already outside. Once your child has been called to come out, you will return to the other side of the gate while you wait for your child. Feel free to communicate with the teachers regarding your child's day while you wait.

If you or someone you list as a pick up person is picking up early (or dropping off later in the morning), you need to text or call the business phone to notify us so we can have your child ready/be ready for your child. If you show up unannounced and outside of the drop off/pick up time, you may knock on the door, then take a step off of the porch. The teacher will then address you. The person dropping off/picking up must have a mask on. Please share this information with anyone picking/dropping off for you.

We expect drop off and pick up time to be time consuming the first few days as children start settling in. We understand some children may have separation anxiety, which is very normal! You must allow us to take your child (even if kicking and crying), and allow us to have their teacher settle them in. We will send pictures/videos of them to you once they're okay. We try to make drop off time quick so that everyone can get started with their day. Please trust that we will hold them and do everything we can to make your child feel comfortable if they're having a tough transition. Sometimes it takes weeks to get into routine!