

Dear Parents,

Now more than ever DNPCCNS is dedicated to keeping your child healthy and safe while offering a high quality early childhood education program. We recognize the importance of your entrusting the care and well being of your children to us. We thank you for your loyalty and dedication to our program.

Recently we received the new state guidelines for reopening child care. We would like to make sure that you are aware of all of the practices that we will be implementing in September in order to keep our program safe and to minimize the spread of germs. The following list outlines our newly adopted practices:

Arrival Time

- Prior to entering the building, the children in our care will have a daily health check and temperature screening during drop off.
- Upon arriving at the program, all staff will have a daily health check and temperature screening prior to entering the building.
- Family members will not be permitted to enter into the building. Children will enter under the guidance of a staff member.

Classroom / Playground Practices

- All classrooms will remain separated to reduce the number of children in one area and to reduce the possibility of viral transmission (even at drop off and pick up time).
- Maximum class size is 10 children per classroom with the same teachers throughout the day.
- Staff are required to wear masks.
- Children are encouraged to wear masks when feasible.
- We will not share equipment and will clean equipment between uses
- Time standing in line will be minimized (each child will be given a “spot” to stand or sit while waiting).
- Staff will have access to antibacterial hand sanitizers and disposable gloves and use them as needed.
- Staff will wash/scrub their hands and children’s hands frequently at key transition times as this is recommended by the CDC as the most effective measure to reduce the spread of germs:
 - when arriving for the day

- before and after meals
- after toileting/diapering
- after being outside
- We will minimize item sharing among children when possible.
- We will refrain from sensory or water table activities including playdough.
- The number of toys and other items in the classrooms will be reduced and rotated to permit washing and sanitizing frequently.
- Soft toys, blankets, dress-up clothing, stuffed animals will be removed for now to make cleaning and sanitizing easier and effective to reduce the spread of germs.
- Children will not be permitted to bring toys from home.
- We are increasing the amount of outside time while maintaining required smaller group sizes.
- Classrooms will stagger outdoor time so only one group is out at a time and the playground will be disinfected between uses.

Cleaning

- Classroom toys will be sanitized at the end of the day.
- Throughout the day staff will disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, faucets, toys and games that children touch.
- Nightly, after all children have left the building, we have implemented more extensive cleaning and disinfection of the entire program.

Communication

- Families will receive communications on any changes in the Handbook policies and procedures.
- The Directors will communicate with families via email, telephone, text or other means of communications as needed.
- It is the family's responsibility to actively engage and follow up on communications.
- It is important for families and staff to communicate often and to be transparent with one another. Please voice concerns or questions you have with us as soon as possible.
- If the current situation changes and it becomes necessary to update our policies and procedures or close our program temporarily, we will notify our families immediately.

Snack and Lunch

- All snacks and lunches will be provided by parents in a sealed zip lock bag labeled with the child's name and should not require heating or refrigeration.
- All surfaces will be disinfected before and after snack and lunch time using EPA-approved disinfectant products.
- All staff and children will wash hands before and after each snack and lunch.
- Staff will allow for a minimum of 3 feet of space between children during snack and lunch.

Staff Training & Wellness

- All staff have received training and education on COVID-19 symptoms, infection control, workplace disinfection and preventative measures including practices and procedures.

The staff is being very diligent to ensure the health and safety of the children. At the same time, we need you to partner with us to follow the CDC safe practice and guidelines in your daily life. Please inform us of any situation that may put your or your family at risk. Communication is essential to the success of these guidelines.

If our current situation and guidelines change, for better or worse, we will update you as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we implement these new procedures. Our goal is to minimize disruption while at the same time keeping you, your family and our staff healthy and well.

In the following weeks we will be sending you a survey with some important questions that are necessary to determine our staffing etc. for September. Please respond to this survey promptly.

Thank you for helping us temporarily transition to a different school environment. We understand how difficult this physical time away from school has been and it is our intention to ease this transition. Please be assured that, as always, the social and emotional growth of your child and a positive school experience remain our focus.

Warm regards,

Kim Kelly and Barbara Fruh

