

KID CARE PRESCHOOL COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

ABOUT COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The rapid global spread of COVID-19 has been classified as a global pandemic, and many places, including Massachusetts, are taking steps to protect communities and slow the rate of transmission.

This COVID-19 safety plan is required by the state of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. It has been developed by following the recommendations and guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts EEC, as well as local boards of health.

Kid Care Preschool is committed to doing our best to safeguard the health and safety of children, staff and families. We are also committed to communicating with you as transparently as possible. As more information and conditions evolve and additional guidance is issued by local, state and federal authorities, we will update this plan and continue to keep you informed.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Infection with COVID-19 can cause illnesses such as fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, gastrointestinal issues, loss of smell and taste, new muscle aches, fatigue and runny noses. According to the CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 are varied and may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Additional information can be found on the CDC website.

HOW COVID-19 SPREADS:

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, including, people who are in close contact. Usually people not wearing masks through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs and sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching surfaces and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not the primary way the virus spreads. People are thought to be most contagious when they are symptomatic. Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CHANGES OVERVIEW

In order to reopen, all childcare providers in Massachusetts must comply with the new standards. The protocols include some changes.

Keeping Healthy:

Illness: Parents, children and staff must stay home when they are sick.

Limiting Visitors: Non-essential staff, parents and visitors are restricted from entering the program. Drop-off and pick-up will occur outside the building. Tours will be virtual or on weekends.

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS:

All individuals will be able to self-screen at home before arriving at the program, (including a temperature check) and then screened prior to admittance into the program for temperatures and symptoms of infection. Families and Staff will also need to fill out and sign a daily health attestation form. If a child has any of the symptoms or combination of symptoms related to COVID-19 they will not be permitted into the school. Also if a family or staff person declines to fill out the attestation form will not be allowed into the program.

Kid Care Preschool will have staggered drop off and staggered pick up.

HEALTH MONITORING DURING THE DAY:

Staff will monitor children throughout the day for symptoms of any kind or combinations of symptoms. Children who exhibit symptoms will immediately be isolated from the group. We will check temperatures using a contactless thermometer looking for a temperature above 100 degrees. The thermometer will be cleaned after each use. If a child or staff has any severe symptoms, emergency services will be contacted.

We will have a safe isolation space where it is easy to supervise the isolated child. Staff will wear PPE. The parent will be notified immediately, to come pick up the child. The child will wear a mask while in isolation.

The staff member will continue to self-monitor during the day. If the staff becomes symptomatic they will immediately stop child care duties and be removed from the class. We will have a backup plan for staff coverage in case a staff member becomes symptomatic.

EXPOSURE:

If a child or staff has been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual has symptoms or not, the child or staff will not be permitted to enter the program. Exposed individuals must stay home for 14 days after the last day of contact with the person who is sick. We will follow guidance from Arlington Board of Health on quarantine of other children and staff and what additional precautions will be needed to ensure the program space is safe for continued childcare services.

ISOLATION:

Exclusion protocols from the Arlington Board of Health will be followed for any child, staff or family member with a positive test for COVID-19 or who are symptomatic and presumed to have COVID-19

TRAVEL:

We will follow Governor Baker's specific travel requirements. If coming from a high risk state deemed by Governor Baker they must fill out a travel form and quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of returning to the State.

CLASSROOMS:

Smaller classrooms:

In order to give children more room EEC has mandated that we increase the amount of square footage per child. This means we can have 5 or 6 children per room.

Restructured Classrooms:

Where needed classrooms have been restructured to incorporate the larger square footage. The classrooms have been rearranged to facilitate smaller groups. Children will have their own boxes of markers crayons etc. Also the toys provided will be divided into 2 or 3 bins, for 2 or 3 children to play with the same toys but separately, socially distancing. Activity centers/learning centers have been placed as far apart as possible.

Consistent Cohorts:

Children will be placed in designated cohorts and remain together, with the same teacher and not switch rooms.

Children's belongings will be stored in their cubbies so they don't touch. We will have paper bags for the children to put their masks in when they have snack or for outside play or mask breaks.

ENHANCED HYGIENE:

Increased Handwashing: All individuals entering the building are required to wash hands or hand sanitizer. Monitored handwashing and hygiene protocols for children will be built in at all necessary times during the day. When outside or during activities where soap and water are not readily available for use, we will carefully monitor use of hand sanitizer.

Personal Protective Equipment: Kid Care Preschool staff will wear masks and gloves all day. At times they may wear face shields and gowns when changing diapers. Children will be encouraged to wear masks/cloth face coverings for children.

Toys from Home: No toys will be not be allowed or will remain in their cubby.

Training: Staff will be trained through EEC Training on COVID-19 reopening.

ENHANCED DISINFECTION:

To ensure effective sanitizing and disinfecting surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized using an EEC EPA approved disinfectant or a bleach solution with the correct ratio of bleach and water. Hi touch areas such as door handles, light switches will be disinfected throughout the day. In the children's bathroom the sinks and toilets will be cleaned after each cohort group and whenever a child uses the toilet. At the end of the day the whole school will be cleaned and sanitized using an electrostatic mist fogger. This gets everywhere in the school, floors ceilings and any difficult areas.

TOYS: Toys will be cleaned and sanitized after being used for the morning and then those toys will be taken out of rotation for 24-48 hours.

PHYSICAL (SOCIAL) DISTANCING:

Children will be kept 6 feet apart as much as feasible and activities that encourage physical contact. Teachers will maintain 6 feet of social distancing as much as possible.

Non-essential visitors will not be admitted to the school.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO?

If we all follow the plans, the chance of transmitting the disease is reduced. This plan is specific to COVID-19 and is in addition to our existing policies and procedures which meet the state licensing standards designed to create a safe environment. Science shows that when members of the community adhere to the following health and hygiene protocol, we can help stop the spread of the disease.

- Stay home when sick. If your child is sick, keep your child home until fever free without fever reducing medication or other symptoms for 24 hours or cleared by a physician to return. If you are sick, please arrange for someone else to drop off your child.
- Practice Good Hygiene. Cover your mouth with tissues whenever you sneeze or cough and discard tissues in the trash. If that's not possible, cough or sneeze into your elbow. Do not cough or sneeze into your hand.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands.
- Wear a mask or face covering when in public. They are mandatory for adults in school.
- Practice social distancing, maintaining a physical separation of at least six feet with others when wearing a mask is not possible.

CHANGES TO OUR HEALTH POLICIES:

Families and staff should self –screen looking for any symptoms or illness. This includes checking temperatures, a cough shortness of breath and any gastrointestinal symptoms. If your child exhibits any symptoms please do not send them to school.

Drop off and Pickup:

There will be staggered drop off and pick up times. Families will receive a schedule of drop off and pick up times. Parents will fill out and sign a daily health attestation form. And submit it when dropping off. We will verbally confirm the information on the attestation form. Temperatures may be taken at the time of drop off. Families will not be allowed inside the school. Anyone who declines to complete the screening questionnaire attestation form, their child will not be allowed to enter school.

Staff will fill out and sign the daily health attestation form.

Children will be monitored throughout the day by staff for any symptoms.

ISOLATION AND DISCHARGE:

If a child becomes symptomatic during the school day, the child will immediately be removed from the classroom. The Director's office will be the designated area for isolation if the weather is inclement or too cold. If the weather is acceptable for the child to be outside, the child will be outside with the Director monitoring the child's safety.

The child will wear a mask while in the designated isolation space.

If staff becomes symptomatic, they will be asked to leave the building immediately. The Director will take over the classroom until a substitute can be reached to come and cover the classroom.

If a staff or child becomes symptomatic and discharged from school they will require either a negative Covid-19 test and then be symptom free and medication free for 48 hours.

If the staff or child does not get a Covid-19 test then the child or staff must remain at home for 10 days and be symptom and medication free for 3 days before returning to school.

If the staff or child does go to a doctor and the symptoms are deemed non Covid-19, then the staff or child can come back IF the doctor writes a note declaring that the symptoms was NOT Covid-19 related and may return to the program when they are symptom and medication free after 48 hours.

INCIDENT REPORTING:

All Covid-19 related incidents will be reported to EEC by submitting an Incident Report through the LEAD portal immediately.

Families will be informed of any case of Covid-19 related incidents.

The Director will contact the Board of Health to report and receive guidance of the town's protocols regarding Covid-19 protocols.

PROGRAM CLOSING AND ABSCENSES:

In the instance of Positive case Kid Care Preschool will close under the guidance of The Board of Health. We will communicate this to the families via email and verbal notification.

The Director will keep track of absences and positive cases.

The Director will contact Families, staff, Board of Health, and EEC of any Covid-19 instances and in the case of closure of the whole school or just a classroom.

Dear Parents,

To save paper the Covid-19 Parent Handbook is listed online under Arlingtonrec.com/Kid Care Preschool. Once you have accessed it and read it, please sign below and return it to school either by email or drop it in the mail slot or bring it in person when school begins. Please let me know if you need a hard copy.

Kim Grubb

I have read and understand the policies of Kid Care Preschool Covid-19 Parent Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date