

COVID SAFETY PLAN

This Safety Plan outlines the policies and procedures that have been put into place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These measures are based on the BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings. Changes to this plan may be necessary as the situation evolves.

ACCESS TO FACILITY / STAYING HOME WHEN ILL

- Those who have not been fully vaccinated must not enter the facility when school is in session. This does not apply to children 5 and under or those who have a medical reason that prevents them from being vaccinated.
- Teachers, children, parents, and caregivers must not enter the building if they have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory diseases. They must stay home until their symptoms have resolved fully.
- Parents and caregivers are required to assess their children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, and other infectious respiratory diseases prior to drop off. Teachers will also assess themselves daily prior to coming to work.
- Visitors to the facility will be minimized during class times.

VENTILATION

- As much as possible windows will remain open throughout class time to allow for adequate ventilation

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Teachers wash their hands when they arrive and many times throughout the day. They will also support the children to do the same.
- Children will be taught to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (singing the "ABC's").
- When not able to wash their hands, teachers and children will use alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Teachers will inspect the classroom throughout the day and sanitize as necessary.
- Washrooms (toilets and faucet handles) will be disinfected after every use.
- Other frequently-touched surfaces (e.g., door knobs, cupboard handles, light switches, table counters, chairs, electronic devices, toys, and craft supplies) will be sanitized daily.
- Toys and objects that children have placed in their mouths will be set aside until they are cleaned and disinfected.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized regularly.

MASKS

- Masks are required inside the classroom for everyone over the age of 5. If you need to come into the classroom but do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. As always, it is your choice to have your preschooler wear one or not.
- Teachers may take off their masks when reading a story during large group/circle time so the children can see their expressions. Proper distancing will be maintained.
- Please respect and maintain proper distancing outside when talking to a teacher and other parents.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Since it is not always possible for physical distance to be maintained by teachers from children, or between children, the focus will be on minimizing the frequency of direct physical contact instead.
- Children will be taught to maintain their “space bubble” and regularly reminded to keep their hands to themselves.
- Only one teacher and a limited number of children will be allowed in the washroom at any time. If there are more than the allowed numbers, the rest of the children will line up on physical distancing footprints.

EXPOSED TO COVID THROUGH CLOSE CONTACT

- Public health does not require anyone who has been exposed to Covid to stay home if they do not have any symptoms. They may continue to attend preschool. As a precaution, however, we require they wear a mask for at least 3 classes.

DEVELOPING SYMPTOMS AT PRESCHOOL

- If a child develops Covid-19 symptoms at preschool the parents will be contacted immediately to come pick them up and the child with a designated teacher will go to a room away from the other children to wait.
- Where possible, the teacher will maintain a safe distance from the ill child, wear gloves to provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene and ensure outside doors and windows are open to increase air circulation in the area.
- Once the child is picked up, the teacher will wash their hands and clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child
- If a teacher develops Covid-19 symptoms at preschool they will go home right away and an alternate teacher will step in.

- If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic teacher should separate themselves from others and stay in the designated isolation room while waiting for a replacement or to be picked up and maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from others.
- The remaining teachers must clean and disinfect the space where the symptomatic teacher was separated and any areas used by her.

As we look forward to the 2022/2023 school year during the COVID-19 public health emergency, we remain thoughtful and careful in our planning and implementing health and safety measures. It is our top priority to do all it takes to protect the children, families, and staff moving forward.

Warm Regards,

Helena Gelean
Preschool Director