

## Curiosity Corner Preschool COVID19 Policy. September, 2020.

This policy incorporates procedures and practices provided by the B.C. Government in order for child care services to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and maintain safe and healthy environments for children and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy addresses key infection prevention and control practices that will be implemented in the child care setting, and the actions to be taken if a child or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19.

### Environmental Measures

#### Outdoor Spaces and Ventilation

Children will be outside as often as possible.

Activities will be organized in a thoughtful way, taking into consideration physical distancing whenever possible.

Appropriate hand hygiene will be practiced before, during and after outdoor play.

#### Indoor Space and Ventilation.

The physical space requirements for licensed child care settings set out in the Child Care Licensing Regulation mean that Curiosity Corner Preschool has sufficient space to support a safe learning environment.

The indoor space will be adequately ventilated, windows opened routinely and the exterior door opened for additional ventilation when appropriate (with a safety gate to maintain safety of all the children).

#### Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces.

The Child Care setting will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.

General cleaning and disinfecting of the centre will occur at least once a day. Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. These include doorknobs, light switches, faucet handles, tables, counters, chairs, electronic devices, and toys.

All surfaces that are visibly dirty will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products will be used for cleaning, instructions on the label will be followed.

Toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from the setting (e.g. plush/stuffed toys). Wooden and other toys that cannot easily be cleaned but are enjoyed by the children will be quarantined and replaced by other similar materials, creating a rotation of toys throughout the weeks.

The garbage containers will be emptied daily.

Disposable gloves will be worn by the childcare providers when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Hand washing will occur before and after wearing gloves.

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via books, paper or other paper-based products. As such, the distribution of books or paper based educational resources to children because of COVID-19 will not be reduced.

### Personal Measures

All parents, caregivers, children and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case must stay home and self-isolate.

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to preschool. Children who are demonstrating any sign of illness, including children of essential service providers, will not be permitted to attend preschool.

Parents and caregivers who are symptomatic must not enter the child care facility.

Daily check at drop-off will include asking parents and caregivers to confirm that they and their child do not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease. The number of adults in the classroom will be kept to a minimum.

Staff will assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill.

If a child becomes sick during the preschool session the child will be isolated from the other children and the parent or childcare provider will be contacted to collect the child from preschool.

If a staff member becomes sick during the preschool session the staff member will wear a mask and parents will be contacted to collect their children from preschool.

If a parent, caregiver or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they will be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. They may also be advised to contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

Signage will be posted to remind people not to enter the facility if they are sick.

#### Hand Hygiene

Curiosity Corner Preschool acknowledges that rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Children and staff will wash hands throughout the sessions with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (singing the “ABC’s” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). Please help me to keep everyone safe by teaching and practising rigorous and thorough hand washing with your child, thank you.

If sinks are not available (e.g., children and staff are outside), supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be considered.

#### Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact.

The following physical distancing strategies will be implemented where possible in the child care setting:

A minimal number of staff will interact with children throughout the day. Children will play in small groups and/or spread out to minimize direct physical contact whenever possible.

When possible there will be more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children.

Staggered snack time will allow spacing between children while eating.

We will minimize the number of additional adults entering the centre, unless that person is providing care and/or supporting inclusion of a child in care (e.g. supportive child care assistants, speech language pathologist, etc.)

### Pick-up and Drop-Off

We have been asked to use the preschool door located next to the playground for both drop off and pick up. We are not permitted access to the main school at any time. When possible please encourage your child to enter the preschool independently. This may be challenging when preschool begins, but please make it a goal in order to reduce the number of adults in the room at any one time. When you arrive with your child please stagger your entry time with others. (I will leave the door open for fifteen minutes at drop off to allow for a staggered drop off and physical distancing). If entering the classroom please only two adults at the cubby area at one time, I will assist the children with hand washing once they have changed into their indoor shoes. Adults are requested to please remain a 2m distance from adults and children who are not part of their family. If adults remain in the classroom for extended periods, perhaps to settle a nervous child, please wear a mask, thank you.

### Respiratory Etiquette

Children and staff will:

Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene (“Cover your coughs”).

Children will not share food, drinks, bottles, sippy cups, facecloths, and other personal items.

For the time being children will not be allowed to prepare or serve food.

If your child has to bring an item of comfort to school please ensure it is something that can be easily laundered or thoroughly washed each day. If possible please leave all personal items, toys etc. at home.

### Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not required to be used by the children and staff in the child care setting, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in our regular course of work.

If you have any questions regarding these policies and procedures please contact the preschool, thank you.