



February 4, 2021

Dear Families,

As a result of a return to in-class learning please find the following:

- our Before & After School programs in Simcoe County will resume on **Monday, February 8, 2021.**
- our Before & After School programs in York Region will resume on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021.**

As we reopen; please be reassured that we are working within guidelines provided by the local public health, the Ministry of Education and respective school board requirements. For further information, families may refer to our website for the Infectious Disease and Pandemic Policy re: Covid-19 and Addendum. Parents should also refer to their school website for additional requirements over and above public health recommendations.

### **Health and Safety Protocols**

To mitigate the spread of illness, the use of public health measures continues to be in place and are now followed in keeping with school board operations surrounding COVID-19.

### **Daily Health Screening**

- Each day before entering the program, all individuals including children and employees, shall have completed the on-line screening provided by YPCE.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for screening children prior to arrival.
- Essential visitors will be screened by a dedicated screener, at the door prior to entry.
- The greeter shall confirm that a health screen has been completed. This may require additional time and families are asked to plan accordingly.
- An individual that has been screened prior to the before school program or core day program, would not need to be re-screened for the after-school program.
- Protocols are in place to allow for communication between school and before and after school providers regarding screening.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- School boards ensure that the classrooms used for before and after school programs are cleaned and disinfected after the core day program ends, and the Before and After school program begins.
- A changing schedule of outdoor play may be required to allow for cleaning and disinfecting of rooms.

### **Physical Distancing**

When in the same common space (e.g., entrances, hallways) physical distancing of at least 2 metres shall be maintained between different groups and shall be encouraged, where possible, between children within the same group. Some strategies include:

- spreading children out into different areas, particularly at snack and dressing time;
- incorporating more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children;

- using visual cues to promote physical distancing.

In shared outdoor space, a distance of at least 2 metres shall be maintained between groups and any other individuals outside of the group at all times. Shared spaces and structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between groups will not be used. Some strategies include:

- planning activities that do not involve shared objects or toys;
- moving activities outside to allow for more space;
- avoiding singing activities indoors.

### **Hand and Respiratory Etiquette**

- These public health measures have always been practiced and will continue. Signage and modelling will reinforce the benefits of the practice for the children.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

PPE is on hand for our educators and they have been trained on its' use.

#### ***New***

- Children in York Region school boards - grade 1 and higher are required to wear a mask while indoors. Masks are also required outdoors.
- Children in Simcoe County school boards - require Kindergarten children and higher to wear a mask while indoors. Masks are also required outdoors.
- Educators are required to wear a medical mask and eye protection, i.e. face shield, while indoors.
- Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks indoors could include circumstances where a physical distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between individuals, situations where a child cannot tolerate wearing a mask, reasonable expectations for medical conditions, etc.

### **Program Routines**

#### **Arrival and Departure**

- Hours of operation have not changed.
- Drop off and pickup will continue to take place outdoors.
- An educator dressed in full PPE shall confirm the health screen has been completed.
- With a clear Health Screen, the educator shall escort the child into the program.
- Only children, educators and essential visitors continue to be permitted in the school/program.
- A site may have more than one entry point, i.e.: kindergarten doors for kinder groups and other entry doors for primary-junior groups.

#### **Indoor and Outdoor Play**

- Children will interact only within their group.
- Outdoor play will continue to be our preferred choice for activity time and children.

### **Food Preparation**

- Snacks normally provided during our programs shall continue through our catering service.

### **Washrooms**

- As before COVID-19, children requiring the use of a washroom, shall access the washroom using the "buddy system".

**Enhanced Health and Safety Measures**

- An isolation room is identified for each site.
- If a child becomes symptomatic of COVID-19 while in program, they will be isolated with supervision until picked up. Parents must pick-up the ill child and any sibling immediately.
- Testing should be considered and will be directed by the Public Health Unit. Full measures are outlined in the policy.
- If a parent cannot be contacted or cannot pick up immediately, the emergency contact is called. Ensure that the emergency contact is aware of all COVID-19 measures for physical distancing, hand hygiene and self-monitoring.

**Continued Communication**

Our families shall be made aware of any updates regarding Covid-19 and how it may affect our service delivery. Notification of case exposures will be made using a combination of phone call, email and signage. Electronic correspondence and one to one engagement using social distancing and signage on COVID-19 specific information will be visible at designated drop off locations. Look for signage re: current news, respiratory and hand hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitoring and PPE.

We look forward to your return and thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we transition back. For any further information please contact your Supervisor.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Black*

Executive Director