



June 24, 2020

Dear Families,

YPCE is reopening on July 6, 2020!

Our educators are busy preparing our programs so that returning to childcare will be a happy transition for everyone. Included in this mailing is the Infectious Disease and Pandemic Policy re: Covid-19. While the policy provides the detailed approach YPCE has taken throughout the closure and during the reopening; the summary provided here is what families should expect upon returning to care.

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 – social distancing of course will continue and signage on COVID-19 specific information will be visible at entryways. Look for signage re: respiratory and hand hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitoring and PPE.

Health and Safety Protocols

To mitigate the spread of illness, the use of public health measures is in place. When followed in unison, the strategies listed will contribute to a safe child care environment.

- **Daily Health Screening** – Active and passive health screens shall be conducted on every employee, essential visitor, child and parent or guardian prior to the child entering the childcare. These screens include a temperature check and a series of questions that address the health status of the child's household. Temperature checks shall be repeated before sleep/rest time. Health screens may take up to 15 minutes and parents are asked to plan accordingly. As per Public Health and Ministry of Education, a child shall not enter the childcare for care, when any member of the household answers YES, to any of the questions or symptoms on the health screen.
- **Physical Distancing** – Although challenging with young children, social distancing will be encouraged throughout the day. Small groups, revised lunch/snack tables, cribs and cots, and purposefully positioned toys and equipment will contribute to the success of social distancing.
- **Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection** – Enhanced cleaning will be performed twice a day and when necessary.
- **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.
- **Food Preparation** – Food and beverages shall only be provided by our catering service for children in the childcare.

Licensing Requirements

All traditional licensing requirements as well as new guidelines for COVID-19 must be met before our doors can open. Therefore, we trust that meeting the standards alone will put families at ease. All educators have been trained on YPCE Infectious Disease and Pandemic Policy re: COVID-19 and use of PPE.

Program Routines

Arrival and Departure

- Childcare sites will operate from 8:00am-5:00pm during the months of July and August. Future hours to be determined.
- Drop of and pickup will take place outdoors and take longer due to the required Health Screen assessment.
- Families will be given an arrival time to facilitate social distancing from other families.
- One educator dressed in full personal protective equipment shall screen families.
- With a clear Health Screen, the educator shall escort the child into the childcare.
- Only children, educators and essential visitors shall enter the childcare.
- A site may have more than one entry point if Exploration Camp program is operating.

Indoor and Outdoor Play

- Children will interact within their cohort of 8 children and 2 educators.
- Interactions will be encouraged respecting social distancing.
- Outdoor play will continue to be our preferred choice for activity time.

Lunch and Snack

- Children will sit at a table in pairs or picnic outdoors, socially distancing.
- Family style lunch and snack with self-service is discontinued.
- Individualized meal portions shall be served to the child.
- Water continues to be available all day and disposable cups shall be used in the child care. Exploration Camp children may bring a personal labelled water bottle that goes home daily and will continue to bring lunches from home, in a labelled lunch pack.

Sleep/Rest

- Cribs and cots shall be positioned to respect social distancing.
- Cribs and cots shall be labelled with child's name and cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Linens shall be laundered daily.

Enhanced Health and Safety Measures

- Parents are advised to screen household members at home prior to arriving at the childcare and to keep children home if anyone is symptomatic.
- If a child becomes symptomatic of COVID-19 while in childcare, 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.

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