

# **ZIMMER PRESCHOOL COVID-19 ENHANCED HEALTH PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

Based upon the recommendations of the CDC and the NJ Department of Children and Families we are considering incorporating the following new guidelines and rules at the Zimmer Preschool. Our primary goal will be to limit the potential exposure or spread of the COVID-19 virus, while still considering how these changes will affect our children and families, and staff.

These procedures and policies are subject to change at any time to remain in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

## **1. DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP AND DAILY HEALTH SCREENING**

We are required by the state of New Jersey to exclude any staff or child exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, from the program or anyone who has been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 within 14 days.

- a. Parents will drop off and pick up in the front vestibule. (Detailed outline of process will be sent closer to re-opening).
- b. If needed we will consider a staggered schedule or other measure to allow for smaller gatherings during these busy times.
- c. Children and staff will have their temperature taken and observed for signs of illness.
- d. Parents and staff will verbally answer a brief health questionnaire.
- e. Once cleared, your child is escorted to the classroom by staff and will wash hands immediately.
- f. Health screenings at home recommended prior to morning arrival.
- g. Consistent person for drop off pick up encouraged.
- h. Health screening logs will be maintained, recording staff and children temperatures as well as answers to the health screening questionnaire.

## **2. INTENSIFIED CLEANING AND DISINFECTING, AND HYGIENE PRACTICES:**

- a. A daily cleaning schedule for toys and high touch surfaces will be posted in each classroom.
- b. High touch surfaces, such as counters, doorknobs, light switches, and tables will be disinfected on regular intervals each day throughout the school.
- c. A nightly cleaning and disinfecting will also take place in each classroom, and the playground and the toys that were used that day.
- d. High touch surfaces on the playground disinfected between each class's use.
- e. Use of difficult to sanitize toys and materials will be restricted.
- f. Frequent hand washing will be practiced with soap and water for 20 seconds.
  - i. Required for everyone upon entering the school and classroom, before and after meals or snacks, after outside time, after using the bathroom or diaper change, after covering a cough or wiping a nose, and prior to leaving for home.
- g. Staff will assist children to ensure they are washing hands effectively.
- h. Staff will work with children on good hygiene practices, such as not touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

- i. Staff will wear gloves while:
  - i. preparing, serving, and assisting during meals.
  - ii. Diapering and assisting in the bathroom.
  - iii. Activities requiring significant direct contact with children.
- j. Water Fountains will not be used.

### **3. IMPLEMENTED SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

- a. Access to the building will be limited. Only staff, enrolled children, and essential visitors will be permitted into the classrooms
- b. Everyone will be screened for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, each day prior to entering the building.
- c. Classroom groups, including staff, will cap at 10 and will remain consistent day to day as much as possible.
- d. Groups will have little to no mixing during the day.
- e. Classroom routines will be adjusted to allow for social distancing, i.e. mats and cribs spread out during nap, fewer children per table during meals, one group at a time on the playground, the playroom will not be used.
- f. Staff will practice distancing measures with each other outside of the classrooms when within the building.
- g. No unnecessary visitors will be permitted in the school.

### **4. FACE COVERINGS**

- a. Staff will wear face-covering while at the school.
- b. Parents must wear face-covering during drop off and pick up.
- c. Children will not be required to wear face coverings while at school.
  - i. They are not recommended for children 2 years old and under.
  - ii. Are not permitted during nap and outside times.

### **5. SCHOOL OPERATING HOURS**

Due to potential additional staffing needs to enable children to remain in their individual classrooms at the beginning and end of each day, and to provide additional time to thoroughly clean and disinfect each night we are considering reducing Zimmer's operating hours during summer and possibly into September. A change to our operating hours would only occur if it is determined necessary so that we may provide your children with the additional safety measures above.

### **6. STAFF TRAINING**

- a. Staff will be trained on implementing and effectively following all enhanced policies and procedures.
- b. Staff will be trained on how to discuss with and assist children with following the increased health practices and how they can help stay healthy and safe.