



## **COVID 19 Policy and Procedure Update**

**March 12, 2020**

We do not anticipate closing the school or having issues having enough staff to be able to continue caring for all children. We will be following the direction given to us by the county and state health and governing agencies.

However, we do anticipate this to get worse before it gets better. Children seem to be weathering the illness part of this epidemic well and spending time with other children and adults who are not ill, should remain to be a safe space for them. However, children may spread the virus easily due to poor impulse control and poor hygiene habits. We will do our part in helping with these while they are with us. We encourage all families to engage as many practices as possible for helping children at home as well. Nightly baths, consistent clothes washing (we know kids can be tricky in stashing favorite clothing places), washing water bottles and other items when they come home each day, and being sure that children follow basic germ fighting (coughing in elbows, keeping hands off faces, washing hands fully) at home as well.

We will doing some deep cleaning this weekend as well as some rearrangements so that things can stay exceptionally disinfected as we move forward. Would you like to help us out? Join us on Saturday from 1 – 4 pm at the Plum Street school and Sunday from 1 – 4 pm at the Mathews Street school – do you have any time to help us out?

We will be enacting and enforcing some VERY strict policies around

### **Reducing the spread of respiratory illness:**

**\*CHILDREN MUST WASH HANDS WITH THEIR PARENTS UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.** We will be stopping you and having you come back to do this until this is a habit, please plan an extra minute or two in the mornings for this practice.

**\*We will be asking families to take all cubby items home daily.** As of tomorrow (Friday), we will be asking parents to take all items home from kids' cubbies, including water bottles, extra clothes and any other personal items.

**\*You may see less items on display or gathered on counters.** If you are looking for a resource you can't find, please ask and we will get it for you. You may also see fewer toys on shelves (STILL PLENTY FOR KIDS TO PLAY) and other measures that make it easier for our cleaning practices to make all the difference.



**\*Staff will fill children's plates while wearing gloves.** We will suspend "family style" serving of snacks and meals for classrooms that had been allowing children to pass and serve food. Families are welcome to pack their own lunches any day they would prefer.

**\*You may see some classroom re-arrangement** to maximize distance between children during rest time and possibly other times of the day.

and

### **Monitoring for illness:**

**\*We will be monitoring kids for illness and notifying the county of any suspected illnesses with children or staff.** Site directors will be filling out an online form for any children or staff who report symptoms of respiratory illness or flu like symptoms as well as any children with fevers of 100 degrees or higher. Parents must give us a call when children are out for the day and if we don't hear from you, we will be calling to check in to be sure we are doing our job in reporting illness. Thank you in advance for the information on symptoms your children may be experiencing so we can get this right!

**\*Parents will be called and required to pick up children within 1 hour of being called if children have signs of respiratory illness, flu, or fevers above 100 degrees.** Please check on and update your emergency contact numbers. Families who are unable to accommodate this policy need to create a plan with site directors.

**\*We will remain firm on our policy that children or staff who are sent home or stay home must remain home for 24 hours after symptoms are not present without fever-reducing medication.** We will continue to keep all kids safe by strict enforcement of this policy.

**\*If we are aware of any child, household, or staff member who has novel coronavirus, we are required to call report it immediately to the Larimer County Health Department.**