

## **Covid-19 Infant Plus Policies and Procedures**

### **Hours of Operation:**

Our program will still be open at 8am, however, to allow for thorough end of day cleaning, we will be closing at 4:30pm until further notice.

### **Social Distancing within our program**

In consideration of our work with children under the age of 3, there will be times throughout the day where we will need to be in close contact with the children, such as diapering, changing clothes, and supporting children during drop off times as needed. As well, children may still have interactions with one another during their play in close proximity to each other. We plan to support families in social distancing from one another during pick up/drop times by having windows of time for you to drop off your child in the morning, and by having your child packed up at the end of the day to lessen time spent inside together.

Throughout the day we will be able to have smaller groups of children during mealtimes by having snacks and lunch in separate settings, such as different tables and outdoor spaces.

During nap times we will take precautions to distance children's beds from each other by having the placement of head to toe between the children.

Staff will always make every effort to be aware of their proximity to each other.

We will have outside time take place in our secured yard.

If you have additional concerns regarding social distancing, please connect with staff.

### **Sick Policies**

If your child develops or has a:

- fever

- cough

- rash

-or show any signs of illness in our current health policies (found in our parent handbook on our website) the following actions will take place:

**IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:** Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

**IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT CHILD CARE:** Staff must take the following steps:

1. Identify a staff member to supervise the child.
2. Identified staff member should immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area until they can go home.
3. Contact the child's parent or caregiver to pick them up right away.
4. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill child. If this is not possible, the staff member may use a mask if available and tolerated or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.
5. Provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene.
6. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
7. Avoid touching the child's body fluids. If you do, wash your hands.
8. Once the child is picked up, wash your hands.
9. Clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child (e.g., bathroom, common areas).
10. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.

Parents or caregivers must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.

**IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:** Staff must be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until all symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

**IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT WORK:** Staff should go home right away where possible.

If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic staff person should:

1. Separate themselves into an area away from others.
2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait for a replacement or to be picked up.
4. Remaining staff must clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas).
5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.

Considering these policies, the centre may have to close at times due to insufficient staff to child ratios. All families will be advised of closures asap.

### **In-Program Policies**

During these times we are asking for families to provide additional food for their child (morning/afternoon snacks and lunch) to limit any exposure during food preparation throughout the day . We will also be discontinuing our Hot Lunch Program on Fridays.

### **Expanded Cleaning Policies and Procedures**

In addition to our current hygiene and cleaning policies, we will be taking additional measures regarding cleaning. Throughout the day we

will be sanitizing toys that have been mouthed and eating areas after each use.

We are fortunate to have a large laundry sink for cleaning toys and equipment frequently.

### **Pick up/Drop up Policies**

Hand sanitizer will be provided to families at the front door to use when coming into the program everyday. If hand sanitizer is unavailable, please wash hands in the sink in the kitchen area before entering the program.

Please have one parent/caregiver drop off your child as well as one parent/caregiver pick up.

We will be giving families a drop off window time so we can ensure that there is adequate time for each child to get comfortable in the program. Drop off times can be arranged with staff. Individual baskets will be provided for both food that does and does not need to be refrigerated. We are asking that all families provide a backpack for their child, as we do not have space to accommodate lunch kits in a social distancing manner.

During pick up times we will be outside. This will allow for social distancing between families. Staff will sign children in and out to allow for less exposure. Staff also will ensure all the children's belongings are packed up on their cubby hooks inside. We will be mindful of trying to accommodate each family's individual needs regarding pick up/drop offs. Please feel free to connect with staff regarding this.