

Dear Little Blessings Families;

Since mid-March our everyday lives have changed dramatically. Many aspects of our usual routines have disappeared or have been altered to fit the new realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. At Little Blessings we are planning for the new school year with a great sense of anticipation for the day when we are able to open our doors and welcome back our little friends. Several steps will be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus while maintaining our quality program and fun learning environment for the children. Here is a summary of the temporary changes that will be made.

Drop-off and Pick up: We encourage one parent to drop off and pick up from Little Blessings. Parents will park their cars and come to their designated door. At drop-off, temperatures of both the child and parent will be checked using a non-touch infrared thermometer. If a fever of 100.4 or higher is noted in either the parent or child, the child will not be admitted. Parents will pick up their child from the same designated door after showing their IDs.

Illness Policy: Any child with respiratory symptoms (cough, runny nose, or sore throat) AND a fever of 100.4 or higher will be excluded until the fever related to these symptoms has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication. If there has been direct contact (children or family members) with a person with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19, children may return to school with written documentation from their physician that they are no longer communicable.

Face Covering: Children must wear face masks or shields to the extent that they are tolerable. All teaching staff will wear masks or shields, and the parent dropping off their child should also wear a face covering. We require children to arrive in a covering and supply two extras if using a mask. Please acclimate your child to wearing face coverings now. Children might accept face shields better than wearing masks.

Teacher Requests and Schedule Changes: Children must be kept with the same group of children and teachers everyday including lunch, afternoons and extended care. The maximum group size is 15 for preschool and 12 for Twos. This requirement will create challenges for our scheduling, and at times eliminate our ability to honor teacher requests and schedule changes.

Supplies and Other Details: Parents are asked to supply a Ziploc bag with 8 crayons, 6 markers, a child-safe scissors, and a glue stick for their child. We will ask parents to contribute to a snack fund, and teachers will purchase the snack items. Other steps that will be taken to reduce the risk of spreading disease include elimination of the use of backpacks, the sensory tables, dress-up clothes, and plush toys. Please send a change of clothing in a Ziploc bag. Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented, including the frequent use of Virex on high touch objects, surfaces and toys, and overnight deep cleaning of our facility.

We will reopen on August 3 for a 4-week summer session of Camp Little Blessings, Off to Kindergarten and Off to Preschool refresher classes. Information and registration forms will be sent out on June 29. Prior to opening, staff will undergo training to implement our new procedures. Our regular preschool year begins on Tuesday, September 8. Short parent/child classroom visits will be held on September 2 and 3 in lieu of our annual Cookies and Milk Open House.

Please remember that these steps are temporary and are being implemented in order to follow the best practices as outlined by the CDC, IDPH, and Department of Children and Family Services. More detailed information is available in our updated Parent Handbook, available online under the Register tab. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Stephanie Smith

Director, Little Blessings Preschool & Kindergarten