

Dear First Pres Families,

What a strange, scary, and challenging time in our world.

For us here in the Children's Center office, we have never had to make so many decisions that affect so many lives without being able to draw upon previous experiences or policies. We have spent the summer developing new policies and procedures that have not been necessary before, and it has been a daunting task with almost constant changes in guidelines and fluctuations in community spread. We appreciate your patience. We are immensely grateful for your continued trust in us to provide a safe, high-quality early childhood experience for your child.

Even though the new safety procedures outlined in this document are of utmost importance, we do not want them to take away from the day-to-day "business" of school life in the eyes of your children. These new safety procedures will be in the backdrop of your child's day, but in the forefront, we will continue to focus on providing fun and engaging learning opportunities for our students. Because the mental well-being of children is as important as their physical well-being, our reopening plan allows for the most normal interactions as possible with classmates and teachers while keeping extra safety considerations in mind. It is a balancing act, but our staff is accustomed to following our high standards of safety and sanitization, and we are also used to caring for the children we work with while keeping those standards in mind. We hope the "new normal" of school with the additional safety policies in place becomes just plain "normal" rather quickly and school is the fun place it always has been.

The plan that we have developed for the initial phase of our reopening is based upon recommendations from the CDC, St. Louis County Health Department, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and local medical perspectives. Additionally, we have worked in conjunction with the church's reopening task force and other area child care centers.

If you have any questions after reading through the policies and procedures outlined below, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Sherry Peters

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER
2020/2021 REOPENING PLAN
JULY 23, 2020 (updated Aug. 25)

**Please note: The procedures outlined below may be modified as we learn more, respond to current information and adopt new guidelines as they are released. This could include a temporary closure.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND CLASSROOM STRATEGIES

- Teachers will wear masks when in the building; children are not required to wear masks.
- Each class is considered a “family” and will remain separate at all times from other classroom “families.”
- Students will be spread out as much as possible for circle times and snack times.
- The number of students at a classroom learning center (i.e. housekeeping, block area) will be limited.
- Furniture and toys will be reduced to allow for extra space in classrooms.
- Hula hoops, pool noodles, and other tools will be used for teaching children about safe spacing from one another.
- Classroom ratios will continue to be kept below state recommendations.
- Whenever possible, classes will spend time outdoors.

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

- We ask that parents be on alert for signs of illness in their children and proactively keep them home when they aren't feeling well.
- Students and staff must stay home for any of the following reasons: extreme fatigue, a temperature over 100.0 within the last 24 hours, medicated for fever with fever-reducing medication within 24 hours, rash or hives, bad cough or thick nasal discharge, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, gastrointestinal issues including vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours, loss of taste or smell, or any other documented symptoms of COVID-19.
- All children and staff will be screened for fever before entering the building.
- Staff members will wear masks and use no-touch thermometers when screening.
- Individuals with a temperature of 100.4 and above will not be allowed admittance into the building.
- All staff and families will be asked to answer screening questions at the start of each day.

- Students will have their temperatures checked again before lunch if/when lunch bunch and afternoon classes resume.
- Staff and students will be monitored throughout the day for signs of illness.

PROGRAMMING AND BUILDING CHANGES

- Early drop-off, lunch bunch and Ladybugs will be phased in after the initial start of school.
- Large gatherings such as Parent Night, Visiting Day, and Open House will take place virtually.
- Separate building entrances will be maintained for church business and the Children's Center during the school week. All visitors to the church will enter through the Adams Avenue entrance, while access to and from the Children's Center will be on the Jefferson Avenue side.
- The church and Children's Center will maintain separate building usage so as to avoid potential cross-contamination.
- Church activities will not be scheduled during Children's Center drop-off or dismissal times.
- Visits from vendors and salespersons will be scheduled before or after school hours.
- Records will be kept of any visitors to the building for contact tracing purposes.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP MODIFICATIONS

- At this time, parents will not be allowed in the building.
- Parents will be asked to drop off and pick up their child on the Jefferson side of the building, where a staff member will conduct health screenings and then escort children to their classroom.
- Parents are asked to wear masks and maintain social distance from other parents while waiting for their child to be admitted or released.
- Classes will have staggered drop-off and dismissal times. (A separate communication will be sent with details on times and procedures.)
- Students will wash their hands as soon as they enter classrooms.

INTENSIFIED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- We will continue following state sanitation standards for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting our center throughout the day, especially surfaces that are frequently

touched, such as doorknobs, light switches, sink and toilet handles, countertops, tables, chairs, and cubbies.

- Each evening, classrooms and building spaces will be cleaned by the building custodial staff according to CDC sanitation guidelines.
- Handwashing times for students and staff will be increased throughout the day.
- Toys and instructional items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used. This includes stuffed animals, dress up items, and other cloth items.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or have otherwise been contaminated by bodily fluids will be set aside immediately and sanitized at the end of the day.
- Classroom toys and manipulatives will not be shared between classrooms.
- Playground structures, bikes, balls, and other recess equipment will be cleaned between recess times.
- Classroom rugs will be replaced with foam mats and sanitized at the end of each day.

ILLNESS POLICIES

For general illness our handbook states:

No child should attend school if:

- They have a fever. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to their class.
- They have a fresh cold.
- They have a dry, hacking cough.
- They have had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- They have been exposed or potentially exposed to a communicable disease, at which time a phone call should be made to the Center, so notices may be made to other parents.
- They are in a household where someone is suspected of having COVID-19 or is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.

In the case of **suspected** COVID-19, please contact your physician and stay in communication with the center. Refer to CDC guidelines at:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html

- If a child or staff member **has or is believed to have COVID-19 and has symptoms**, he/she must meet the following requirements before returning to school: 10 days since the symptoms first appeared, 3 days with no fever AND respiratory symptoms have improved.

- If a child or staff member **tests positive for COVID-19 and has no symptoms**, he or she will stay home until 10 days have passed after the test.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 must stay home and must not drop off or pick up a student for 14 days after exposure.
- Each child must have a signed 2020 COVID-19 waiver form on file.

FIRST PRES CHILDREN'S CENTER FALL 2020 FAQ'S

1. How will my child feel comfortable going to school if I can't walk him/her into the building?

We know this year brings many new challenges. Just as in any other year, there are times when children fear separating from parents. But we are planning new ways to introduce students to their teachers before school starts, with individually scheduled outdoor visits at your home or on the playground at school. We also will be sending virtual classroom tours for you to watch with your child. Your classroom teachers will be in touch with you about concerns you may have and will ask you to send in a family photo to be displayed in the classroom. We know children are very adaptable to new situations when they are prepared. We will work as a team to set your child up for success.

2. If you are practicing social distancing, how will you comfort my child and take care of his needs?

While there are many changes to our normal operations, comforting a hurt or sad child is one practice we agree is necessary for a child's emotional well-being. We believe it is important to build trust with each child to provide a school environment where they feel

safe and loved. We will continue to hug, pick up, and give a reassuring pat on the back as needed. Teachers will continue to assist children with their toileting/diapering needs, and with hygiene issues (blowing noses, wiping mouths, washing hands) as in the past.

3. Can my child bring comfort items from home?

Our youngest students may depend heavily on lovies, binkies, and special stuffed friends, especially at the beginning of the year. They may bring these to school with them to be used as needed. Every effort will be made to keep these special items out of the hands of other students. Comfort items will be stored in student bags when not in use. Older students may just need to know that their special item is with them in their school bag, and can “visit” it during the day.

4. Will my child be allowed to play with other children closer than 6 feet apart?

Yes! Our students need to be able to play together! Their social development is a top priority in preschool. While we are arranging our classrooms to help accomplish social distancing, implementing additional handwashing times and limiting movement between classes, we will continue to have plenty of play time together -- both inside and out. Teachers will continue to limit the number of students at certain learning stations (such as the sensory table) and help teach “personal space” concepts as always.

5. What will class sizes look like?

Our classes remain below state guidelines, with no more than 12 children with two teachers in the Butterfly, Lamb and Bunny classes, and no more than 16 students with two teachers in the older classes.

6. Will the water fountains be on?

No, we will not use the drinking fountains but will offer disposable cups of water to children throughout the day.

7. If parents aren't allowed in the building, how will we stay connected to school?

Our center has purchased a parent/teacher communication app which will allow for easy communication between home and school, sharing of photos and important calendar dates, as well as individual family and whole class messaging. Teachers will send a daily message about what the class did that day. Parents will be able to check their children in with this app, answer Covid screening questions, and sign their children out at the end of the day. We will continue to post to Facebook and Instagram and send out email updates to all families weekly.

8. What will be served for snack?

This year, instead of asking parents to supply snacks for their child's classroom, the school will provide healthy, peanut-free snacks that will be distributed by teachers using gloves and serving utensils where possible.

9. My child has food allergies. Can I send a snack for him/her?

Please discuss any allergies with your child's teacher. We will work with you to make sure you are comfortable with any snacks we serve in your child's classroom.

10. When can we expect lunch bunch to start being offered again?

As long as children and staff are adjusting well to the safety measures and new routines being put into place and snack time routines appear to be operating safely, we plan to begin lunch bunch in October.

11. My child has eczema and cannot use hand sanitizer. Can he/she use soap and water instead?

Whenever possible we plan to have students use soap and water to wash their hands. When that is not possible, hand sanitizer will be used. If you have concerns about this, please discuss with Mrs. Peters.

12. We are new to the center. How can I meet other parents and build relationships with other families?

The Parent Advisory Board is available to assist new families and serve as school/parent liaisons throughout the year. Each class will also have a room parent that will maintain communication with the families in the class. A list of the board members and room parents and their contact information will be shared with you before we start school.

13. Will the center still follow Kirkwood School District closures and calendar?

We plan to follow pre-set calendar dates as usual such as Christmas and Spring Breaks. We will continue to follow Kirkwood cancellations due to weather. District closures due to Covid-19 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; if we feel that the concerns of the district do not apply to the operations of our center, we will remain open.

14. If I choose to wait and send my child at a later date, will my child be able to keep his classroom assignment?

The center is currently holding new registrations on a wait list. In the event of a classroom opening, we will be contacting those families. If you do not want your child's placement to be offered to a new student, you will need to pay monthly tuition to secure his spot when you are ready to return.