

Early Childhood Program FAQ's

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Q: Will there be changes to the number of students and the schedule?

A: Preschool will have a maximum of 8 students, Tot School a maximum of 5 students and Playschool a maximum of 7 students. This year we will only be offering morning classes. The limited numbers of children vary by classroom size and only morning classes provide us the best opportunity in contact tracing and less risk of contagion. After class, our staff will have time to ensure that cleaning and disinfecting is effectively done.

Q: Does my child have to wear a mask?

A: If your child is age 3 or older, according to CDC guidelines it is required that they wear a mask. If a child has a difficult time with the mask as a result of a medical condition or if they are having a hard time with it, the children will be monitored and given breaks if necessary. We recommend that you send your child with a mask on and an extra in a zip lock baggie to keep in their classroom cubbies for the year. The children will take their masks off for snack time and water breaks.

Q: How will students maintain a social distance in the classroom?

A: Although social distancing is tricky with younger children, we are confident it can be done. Students will be given their own special carpet square where they will be able to have their free time to play. These squares will be socially distanced from each other. Our experienced teachers and aids will be modifying games and activities for the classroom to ensure safety and fun.

Q: How will the Park District conduct a health screening?

A: Every participant will be given a self-health screen. Upon arriving at school, staff will ask parents if they conducted the self-assessment and the child is in compliance.

Q: What will be added to the daily routine as a result of the new guidelines?

A: Hand washing and sanitizing breaks will be done in between activities and before and after snack time. Sanitizing of supplies or toys that are used most frequently will be conducted by staff.

Q: What do I send my child to school with?

A: We are asking that students do not bring backpacks this year. Each student will need a plastic folder with their name to send home work and completed projects. In case of an accident or spill, please bring a gallon zip lock baggie with a change of clothes. Another zip lock with a replacement mask is required. A reusable water bottle and snack from home needs to be provided. It is preferred that the snack from home is brought in a disposable bag. If this is not possible, a lunch box labeled with the child's name can be kept in their cubby.

Q: What if my child is sick?

A: If your child becomes ill or exhibits signs of COVID-19 (with cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever of 100.4 degrees or above, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or other CDC-identified symptoms) they are required to stay home. The child will not be allowed to return to school without proper documentation from a physician stating they are no longer contagious and are able to attend. If the child becomes sick or exhibits signs of COVID-19 during the day, parents will be required to pick up their child immediately. We will identify an isolated area for that child to stay until they are able to be picked up. If a camper becomes ill with anything other than COVID-19, they must remain home for 72 hours before returning to school. If a child has a runny nose even if they are feeling well, they will be asked to stay home because staff will not be able to clean it for them and the mix of a mask and runny nose can make breathing difficult or uncomfortable for them.