

# Reopening Plan

The Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in many challenges to creating a fun, safe, nurturing early childhood learning environment. We have put much thought, care and research into our reopening plan, finding guidance from many sources, including the CDC and New York State Reopening Guidance. We understand that we may need to adapt to pandemic-related changes and to the socio-emotional, physical, and health & safety needs of the children and staff.

## Precautions

Class sizes have been limited (10 for room 102, 18 for room 101).

The class time has been reduced to 2 hours as we learn how the children adapt to the learning environment.

The drop-off and pick-up times for the 2 classes will be staggered. One class will run from 8:45 - 10:45 and the other will be from 9:00 - 11:00.

## Drop-Off

Adults dropping off will use a drop-off car line on Fifth Street. They are not permitted to come into the building unless the child needs emergency care.

While waiting for the screening process, in order to maintain appropriate and safe distancing, each family will keep one full sidewalk block between them and the adjacent families in line.

Each staff member and child's temperature (digital, non-contact thermometer) will be taken before entering the building. Any child or staff member with a temperature of 100 or more will be unable to attend class and be given instructions for resuming class. A daily log will be kept, for each child and staff member, with a "clear" or "not clear" designation. We are prohibited from keeping individual temperature records.

Staff members and children will wash hands before entering the classroom and throughout the class time.

Each child will have his/her own bin designated for backpacks and outer clothing. These bins will be kept in the preschool hallway with limited staff contact.

Touch-less hand-washing stations will be placed throughout the preschool.

Classroom windows will be open whenever possible to promote air circulation.

Learning spaces have been designed and adapted to create as much 6' social distancing as possible to allow for as much mask-free time as possible.

Upon entering the classroom, each child will have a 28 sq. ft. play/activity area, with a yoga (play) mat, lap desk, and plastic bin of activities. Extra activity bins will be located outside of the classrooms, to be traded out, unshared, as needed for the children.

Supplies will not be shared among the children. This year families will be given a list of supplies to send to school with their child on the first day, to be used exclusively by their child(ren).

### **Face Coverings**

The preschool will supply washable, reusable face masks to children to be worn whenever a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained. Children's masks will be swapped out as needed. A mask will not be reused until it has been appropriately laundered. A supply of 3-layered disposable face masks will be on hand to be used as liners for the cloth masks when needed for non Covid-related runny noses, sneezing and coughing (e.g., allergies).

Per the NYS directives (page 10 par 5,) face covering breaks will be incorporated into our daily plans when safe-distancing can be maintained.

Preschool staff will use either cloth masks (or clear face shields with neck gaiters) as appropriate, understanding that socio-emotional importance of the children's ability to see the facial expressions of their teachers. they will be prepared to put on face covering if a child or another staff member unexpectedly cannot social distance.

### **Snack**

Determining whether a snack time would be part of our daily schedule has been difficult as we weighed the health and safety of the children with the socio-emotional and physical benefits. We have decided to cautiously continue a classroom snack time with the knowledge that it will be eliminated if warranted.

Each child will bring his/her own water bottle and a prepackaged snack to be chosen from a list of acceptable snacks.

### **Cleaning**

Each day, any supplies for which it is safe to do so, will be cleaned and sanitized in the church's commercial dishwasher. No items will be transferred between children without first being cleaned/sanitized.

Records will be kept documenting the date, time, and the extent of cleaning and sanitizing.

### **Storytime**

Because of the need to keep children apart in the classroom, the former playroom will be used as a story room. The size of the room will require that the children sit 3 feet apart (and wearing masks) but allow all of the children see/hear adequately. We will be sensitive to individual needs of the children when designating spaces in the story room.

## **Art & Large Motor**

We understand the need for children to have face-covering breaks and will incorporate them into our daily plans. New York State guidelines state that a “a distance of 12 feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities...or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in gym classes).

It is our plan to have exclusive use of the church’s Fellowship Hall, Monday through Friday, using the carpeted area as a large motor music and movement space.

The tiled parts of the Fellowship Hall will serve as art areas with North and South sides of the room designated for, and limited to, a specific cohort (Mrs. Byrne’s class or Mrs. Beresford’s class).

Using Fellowship Hall as the art area enables us to avoid the limitations that art activities on individual mats would necessitate (e.g., paint, glue, glitter).

## **Hallway Travel**

To avoid bi-directional foot traffic the the preschool wing hallway, “traffic lanes’ will be created. Masks will be worn by staff and children when in the hallway.

## **Bathrooms**

Each of the 2 bathrooms will be designated for, and limited to, a single cohort (Mrs. Byrne’s class or Mrs. Beresford’s class). To the best of our ability, one child at a time will be in the bathroom. Each stall will be wiped with sanitizing wipes after use. The use of sanitizing spray, while possible when necessary, will be limited to limit the inhalation of chemicals in such a small space.

Because many of the children are newly potty trained, we will have portable potties available to be used to avoid toileting accidents when a child cannot wait.

## **Health & Safety**

Students and staff will be required to wash hands, at a minimum:

Upon entering the building

Upon entering the classroom

After using the bathroom

Before and after snack

Whenever hands are soiled

After sneezing, coughing or wiping/blowing nose

## **Cleaning**

The CDC’s *Guidance For Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes* will be used to provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

Only Disinfectants on the EPA’s *List N: Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV2 (Covid-19) will be used*, being especially attentive to directions for use, precautions, and warnings.

Teaching staff will be responsible for the daily cleaning of toys, supplies, materials and lap desks. students should not be present when disinfectants are in use.

When cleaning, special attention will be given to:

Door handles

Kitchen and bathroom faucets

Light Switches

### **Attendance**

Children and staff should stay home if they feel sick and the preschool director should be notified of any symptoms of, or exposure to, Covid-19.

### **Preparing Children**

In lieu of a back-to-school night, we plan on having a virtual online tour that families can take together to help the children prepare for the school year.

To help children adjust to the drop-off and dismissal policies, we will schedule individual practice sessions. Each child will be brought to the Fifth Street door as they would on a typical school day. We will take the family through the drop-off process, the child will come into the preschool, look into the classroom, choose a gift and a snack to take home, and then be taken through the dismissal process. This should only take a few minutes per child although we will allow extra time should a child or family member have any questions.

### **Dismissal**

Each family will be assigned a number and be given a sign depicting their number. The numbers (along with color, make & model of vehicle) will be used to help identify the vehicle/family member picking up the child(ren). A staff member will be outside with a walkie talkie and as each pick-up person is identified, the outdoor staff member will notify the classroom staff which children to take to the door to be dismissed.

If all of the parking spots on the 5th Street side of the building are taken cars will line up using the parking spaces on Spring Street. The church's parking lot on the 6th Street side of the building will be used if no Spring Street parking spaces are available.

The staggered drop-off and dismissal times should enable us to dismiss the children efficiently.

We will make adjustments to this system, and any other part of our reopening plan, as needed.