Guidelines for Reopening Preschool

Guidelines based on CDC, VA Department of Health and VA DSS

**Abracadabra Child Care & Development Center**

**Guidelines for Reopening Preschool Locations**

**Issued June 2, 2020**

**Governor’s Guidelines**

On June 2, 2020, Governor Northam stated, “we recognize childcare and summer day camp programs are working diligently to continue and/or resume operations to help more children return to care and normalcy and support the reopening of Virginia”. With this guidance Abracadabra Child Care & Development Center will reopen on July 13, 2020. Our team of teachers and staff have spent the week cleaning and preparing for reopening a safe and caring learning environment for our preschool community. Our leadership team would like to share these guidelines to prepare for reopening for families that still require childcare during this state of emergency following the guidelines set forth in Governor Northam’s Executive Order:

* Child Care programs must take extraordinary precautions beyond what is normally recommended to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus including:
	+ Mandating social distancing and keeping children in small groups (no more than 10 children clustered in an activity); no large group activities
	+ Group size limit increases to 12 (including staff). This means we are limited to 10 children per classroom. No exceptions! Classes will not be combined.
	+ Use of interactive water features, splash pads, wading pools, etc., is prohibited
	+ Instructing staff to monitor for symptoms and stay home if they are sick
	+ Instructing parents/guardians to keep children home if or any member of the household exhibits symptoms
	+ Mandating frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing one’s nose. Teachers should help young children do the same. If hands are visibly dirty, use soap and water to clean hands
	+ Advising persons to avoid touching their face (especially eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands)
	+ Increasing the early childhood program’s cleaning and disinfection routine to multiple times per day, while being careful with children in the near vicinity. Emphasizing cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces
	+ Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash and cleaning hands with soap and water
	+ Providing adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer
	+ Governor Northam’s recent Executive Order 63 requires the use of facial coverings in indoor spaces as of May 29, 2020.

As a reminder, our guidelines for facial coverings are based on the CDC guidance and indicate:

1. All staff should wear cloth face coverings when inside the childcare facility.
2. Face coverings should be cleaned, following CDC guidelines, or a new disposable face covering should be used each day.
	* Restricting outside visitors and volunteers

**What will Abracadabra do in addition to the above?**

**Steps teachers and administrators will take to stop the spread of germs:**

Initial cleaning will be done by a certified cleaning company.

* Take the temperatures of everyone who enters either building at the front door. **This applies to all staff, and children.** Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or above will need to leave the building immediately.
* Wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water with any transition in the building i.e. entering the building, leaving a classroom, before and after all meals, leaving the building, etc.
* Wear a mask while in either of Abracadabra’s buildings.
* Reduce transition of children between classrooms.
* Discontinue multi-group use of the playground. One classroom will be on the playground at a time.
* Stay home if COVID-19 symptoms appear or if you are feeling ill.
* **If diagnosed with COVID-19, monitor symptoms at home and contact the Director immediately. Any staff member or child who is diagnosed with COVID-19 will need to quarantine at home for 14 days before returning to the Center.**
* Avoid touching your face
* Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away and wash hands for 20 seconds
* Assisting children in proper handwashing procedures (leaving a classroom, before and after all meals, before and after outdoor play)
	+ Bring the child to the sink
	+ Have the children get soap and wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. Teacher observes the children so that they can make sure that they are completing the task for the allotted time and covering their hands.
	+ Have children get a paper towel, dry their hands, then throw it away and return to activity. Teachers turn off water with paper towel.
	+ Group handwashing recommended when possible – turn on the water at sink, have children line up to wash hands using soap and water for 20 seconds, get paper towel, dry and move on. Keep water on until group is finished. Teacher turns off water with a paper towel.
	+ Frequent disinfection of toys, tables/chairs, bathrooms, books, door handles, sinks and other heavily traveled areas daily using an EPA-approved disinfectant.
	+ Soft toys will no longer be used in any of our classrooms.
	+ Group events including parties where food from home is served will be discontinued.
	+ Initial cleaning done by a certified cleaning company
* Cleaning checklists of heavily traveled areas have been updated and will be tracked to ensure proactive cleaning practices are implemented for all administrators and teachers daily.

**What will Abracadabra do...continued**

**Expanding Abracadabra’s Sick Policy (applies to staff, parents and children):**

* If any family member is sick everyone should stay home, possible signs of sickness include:
	+ A temperature over 100.4 degrees F (fever)
	+ Coughing
	+ Shortness of breath
	+ Severe cold with fever, sneezing, and/or nose drainage
	+ An infection (unless the child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours)
	+ Diarrhea, unidentified rashes, chicken pox, vomiting, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, impetigo, or other contagious diseases

**Changes to regular schedule, field trips and school events:**

* Transitions and student movements will be reduced to limit any potential cross contamination or spread of germs
* Transitions will begin and end with students and teachers washing their hands
* All field trips and in-house guest presenters have been cancelled until further notice.
* All large school events including parties and extra-curricular activities (i.e. Soccer, Jump Bunch and Spitfire) have been cancelled until further notice.

**What do we need parents to do?**

**Steps parents must take to reduce the spread of germs:**

**DROP OFF/PICK-UP**

* **The center will be opened Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00pm**
* Parents will not be allowed in the building.
* If your child’s classroom is in the church, you will use the parking lot as you’re your pick-up and drop-off point. A tented station will be in the parking lot where you will sign your child in/out.
* If your child’s classroom is in the house, you will need to park on Masonic Avenue. A tented station will be off of the playground where you will sign your child in/out.
* In keeping with the Governor’s order parents must wear face masks during drop off and pick-up.
* **Upon arriving to the tented station, the staff will accept your child, take temperatures and check symptoms upon arrival each day, you will be asked if medications were used to lower the child’s temperature. The assigned staff will swab their forehead, if your child’s temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, displays a cough, or shortness of breath, he/she will be excluded from the center and not be allowed in the center, and will have to return home. Your child’s arrival and departure temperature will be recorded daily.**
* Sign-in/out sheets will be handed to you, accompanied with a pen you can have in your possession.
* It was also recommended by DSS and the Virginia Department of Health that the same parent drop off/pick parent
* If someone in your household is sick, everyone should stay home.
* Children will not be allowed to bring toys from home.

**What Else Can Parents Do....**

* Avoid touching your face (especially eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands)
* Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away and wash hands for 20 seconds- use hand sanitizer if you are unable to wash hands.
* Limit interactions and potential exposure, do not make unnecessary stops while traveling from home, work or school.
* **Since we can no longer serve family-style meals, parents will be responsible for providing a bag lunch each day for their child, including a bottle of water.** If cups are used, they will be sent home each evening to be sanitized and returned the following day. No lunch boxes please. Individually wrapped snacks will be served.
* **Children’s belongings will continue to be kept in individual containers/cubbies and will be sent home each day to be cleaned.**

**What we all need to do......**

**Discouraging vacation, gatherings and travel:**

* The CDC recommends that families avoid traveling
* The latest guidance recommends you avoid gatherings of more than 10 people
* **Families returning from high-risk countries or areas of the United States where COVID-19 infections are spreading rapidly are not permitted to enter our school unless they are symptom-free for 14 days after their return. We are requesting that families let us know when they will be traveling and when they return.**

**Follow general guidelines from CDC regarding COVID-19:**

1. Protect your personal health-[CDC Guidelines on Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention.html)
	* Know how it spreads
	* Take steps to protect yourself
		1. Wash hands often
		2. Avoid close contact
	* Take steps to protect others
		1. Stay home if you are sick
		2. Keep your child home if they are sick
		3. Cover coughs and sneezes
		4. Wear a facemask if you are sick
		5. Clean and disinfect
2. Know the symptoms- Fever, cough, shortness of breath
3. Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people
4. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, social visits
5. Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and healthy.