

COVID-19 PRACTICES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

November 2020

ARRIVING AT AND LEAVING PRE-SCHOOL

On arrival:

- All parents must wear masks when dropping off their children.
- They must drop off their child with “The Gatekeeper” teacher at the school gate. Parents may only enter the school property if they have an appointment with the Principal that has been approved by the Principal ahead of time.
- The Gatekeeper must:
 - Check if the child is on the exclusion list i.e., they or a family member tested positive for COVID within the past 10 days or showed symptoms. If the child is on the exclusion list they will not be allowed to enter the pre-school.
 - Ask every parent to sign with their own pen the daily sheet confirming that they, their children, or any family member have not tested positive for COVID within the last 10 days and have not shown symptoms. If they have, then the child will not be allowed to enter the school for a period of 10 days.
 - Ask the parent to remove the child’s mask and take it away with them. The mask must not enter the pre-school.
 - Check the child’s bag and ask parents to take home anything other than clothes, nappies, medicine and food. Towels and blankets which they have used to carry children on their backs may not enter the schools.
 - Pass the child to the “Thermoscanner Teacher” who will measure the child’s temperature and record it.
 - If the child has a temperature more than one degree higher than their average daily temperature over the last week then the child must be sent home.
 - Transfer the child to another staff member “The Transfer Teacher” who will transfer the child from the gate to the bathroom to wash hands and then to their bag hook/locker.
- The “Transfer Teacher” must:
 - Take the child to the bathroom and assist them to wash their hands with soap and water and wash their own hands with soap and water.
 - Take the child to the area they should be in.
 - Return to the gate for the next child.

When leaving the school:

- All parents must call for their child from the school gate and remain outside the school property with a mask on.
- Ensure that no items are sent home with the children e.g. artwork, books, toys.
- A staff member will help the child to collect their bag and take the child to the gate.
- The Gatekeeper must ask the parent to sign the child out with their own pen.

DURING THE DAY

Throughout the day all Staff must:

- Model regular hygiene with at least one lesson every day discussing hygiene (short story, songs, rhymes, pictures and action songs).
- Keep children within their class as far apart as practically possible. The DSD guidelines are for 1m physical distancing. This will be very difficult to achieve but can be done when they are sitting down. Games like “flap your wings” to show physical distancing should be encouraged.
- Use tape or chalk on the floors to encourage / monitor distancing.
- Wipe down with the cloth and bleach solution any food containers, bottles and medicines that have come from home in the bag.
- Keep their class apart from other classes and other class teachers at all times.
- Show children the correct way to cover a cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Only each take 3 children at a time to the bathroom.
- Ensure that all children understand and are practicing correct hand washing e.g. use soap and water, wash for 20 seconds, every part of their hands, fingers and nails. Dry hands by shaking water off (do not use towels). The DSD recommends hand washing over the use of hand sanitiser. We will keep the use of hand sanitiser to a minimum and rather wash more frequently.
- Not use hand sanitiser on children under 3 years old.
- Keep hand sanitiser out of reach of children at all times.
- Not use sandpits or ball pits. Our sandpits will be covered over until further notice.
- Use puppets or dolls to demonstrate COVID symptoms (coughing or fever) and what to do if they feel sick (sore head, sore stomach, hot or extra tired) and how to comfort someone who is sick (cultivating empathy and safe caring behaviours).
- Take children for outdoor play at different times from other classes.
- Sanitise the playground equipment (toys, seats, bars and handles) each time your class has finished using it and is ready to go inside.
- Reduce the use soft toys.
- Encourage children to play with their own toys for the day using their “busy box”.
- Get children to eat in your own classroom or to use dedicated eating areas where available at different times from other classes.
- Ensure that there is no sharing of cups, eating utensils, food or drinks.

During sleep time all staff must ensure that:

- Each class sleeps separately in their own area. Classes must have at least 3 meters between them if they need to sleep in the same area.
- Within your class's sleeping area that children on mattresses are spaced as far apart as possible and at least 1.5 meters apart.
- Children do not share mattresses or cots.
- You disinfect your class tables and chairs again during sleep time with a cloth and the bleach solution (1 litre of water with 4 teaspoons bleach added) *¹

*¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>