REACH PRESCHOOL NORTH DELTA

OPERATING GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19

GENERAL:

* Safe distancing and directional arrows will be put in entranceways (indoors and out) and hallways
* Children will enter and exit according to directional arrows (no overlap whenever possible)
* Safe distancing signage will be posted at entrances and indoors
* Have bleach solutions, sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes available in all areas prior to children arriving (holders to be installed to hold all materials needed)
* PPE available at entrances and exits i.e. hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, disinfectant wipes
* Make sure waste baskets (with liners) are readily available in all areas for discarding wipes and used PPE
* Medical information/cautions posted in entrance (DO NOT ENTER guidelines)
* Families will answer daily questions regarding their child’s health. Children will be sent home if necessary based on information offered by parents. (BC Health Authority criteria will be followed to the letter – NO EXCEPTIONS). Families will be notified of this policy prior to preschool resuming and policies will also be posted throughout the building
* Parents will be discouraged from entering the premises. Children will be dropped off at the doorway unless entry is absolutely necessary (as for children’s comfort) and then only one parent at a time
* Children’s belongings will be taken home each day. Nothing to be left at school
* Anything being dropped off by a parent i.e. cheques, forms, etc. to be put directly into a ziplock bag and labelled
* Only staff will handle the sign-in/out sheets and pens. They will be the ones to fill in the sign-in sheets and sign the children out at the end of the session

PLAYGROUND:

* Outdoor play should be a major part of the program whenever possible including for snack and play activities i.e. art, etc. if possible
* Children will wash hands before going outdoors and when they come back inside
* Snack should be eaten outside if possible (snack time to be staggered so only a few children at a time)
* Riding toys should be limited and sanitized after each use before the next child gets on
* The sandbox will remain closed for the foreseeable future
* Water bottles to be clearly labelled with the child’s name and wiped down after each use
* Children should limit physical contact as much as possible (safe distancing at this age is difficult so emphasis should be put on limiting **physical contact** as much as possible)
* Limit the number of children on individual pieces of equipment
* Keep paint easels 6’ apart if setting up outdoors
* Allow children to use hand sanitizer (UNDER AN ADULTS GUIDANCE ONLY) and must be at least 60% alcohol based) or wipes outdoors if not able to get to the washroom to wash their hands

PLAYROOM:

* Tables will have acrylic dividers installed and the number of chairs will be limited at each table to help keep children at a safe distance from each other (must be monitored by adults)
* Tables should be distanced as much as possible
* Table surfaces should be sanitized when one child leaves an area and before another one comes along
* Toys that are out should be able to be sanitized easily (avoid using toys that have multiple small pieces such as lego and light bright unless you can offer each child their own container of pieces)
* Items such as wooden blocks should be limited in amounts for easier sanitizing
* Do not use any stuffed animals, blankets, table cloths, dress-ups etc. that cannot be easily washed daily
* IMMEDIATELY remove and sanitize any items that children have had near or in their mouths or that have been coughed or sneezed on
* Toys should be sanitized between uses whenever possible
* Encourage children to wash their hands often throughout play time
* Children are fine to play on the carpeted area but must be distanced as much as possible to avoid contact
* May need to limit the use of books that cannot be easily wiped down
* Art utensils and paint brushes should be wiped down between use or each child given their own materials
* Try to avoid toys that encourage group play such as table games, etc. or activities that encourage physical contact
* Set up multiple stations that promote the same popular activity if necessary i.e. two craft tables, etc.
* Focus on toys that encourage individual play i.e. puzzles, stacking toys, etc.
* Remind children “hands to yourself” or “two arm lengths from your friend” or “use your words to get your friends attention”
* Playdough and sensory tables will not be used until future notice

SNACK/LUNCH:

* No longer a shared snack. Children will only eat their own food from their own kit and use their own water bottle
* Children will wash their hands before and after eating
* Children will only eat the food they brought from home. No sharing of foods with each other
* We will not use any preschool utensils, plates, glasses, etc. These items must be brought from home
* Preschool paper cups and disposable utensils may be used if necessary(while supplies last) and then immediately disposed of
* Snack times will be staggered so only 4 to 6 children will eat at one time if they can be distanced appropriately
* Table surfaces will be sanitized between each child eating
* Lunch time children will be seated throughout the area so as to keep a safe distance. Teachers will circulate as necessary (it may be a good idea for teachers to wear gloves during lunch time as children will need help opening containers, etc. Staff should sanitize their hands often during meal time
* Children should be monitored when putting their lunch kit away to make sure it goes only in their own cubby
* All containers and trash should be put in the child’s lunch kit and taken home to dispose of

PERSONAL HYGEINE:

* Children will wash hands upon arrival and often throughout the session
* Children will wash hands before going outdoors and upon coming back into the school
* Only one child should be using the washroom at a time (upstairs one child could be using the toilet and one child washing hands if it is monitored)
* Toilets and taps should be sanitized between each use

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

* Staff should physically distance from each other as much as possible
* Staff should limit physical contact with children whenever possible
* According to the BC Centre for Disease Control and the BC Ministry of Health, the use of PPE is not needed in the child care settings. However, staff need to use PPE as they see necessary to do their job safely such as changing diapers, cleaning vomit, runny noses, disinfecting toys etc.(i.e. use of masks, gloves, visors, etc.). These items are not necessary/ nor should they be used by the children
* Do not hug/high five/shake hands with other individuals including children and staff
* Separate children showing any signs of illness immediately from the group until they can be picked up. Once they have been picked up the area must be fully sanitized and all surfaces wiped down. Any materials that were used for the child’s comfort i.e. blanket or pillow must be bagged and laundered as soon as possible
* Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, flu or COVID 19 symptoms before coming to work
* Staff should conduct daily visual checks of the children at drop off and question parents as to their well being

***Adapted July 2020***