



Precious Seeds Montessori House

Montessori & Forest Programs

COVID-19 Health Policy

Please review the following health and safety measures we are taking to protect children and staff and minimizing the impact of infection and illness.

Drop Off & Pick Up Procedure

- Drop off and pick up will happen at the door.
- Only 1 parent in the cubby at the time, if necessary. Please maintain physical distancing.
- Please send any items your child needs for the day ALL INSIDE a backpack or bag.
- Bags will be stored will hung on outside cubby hooks in summer and indoor cubby hooks during the school year.
- Teachers will greet children with a contactless wave or bow instead of the usual "Montessori handshake."
- Please screen your child daily for signs of illness (i.e. cold or flu symptoms) before bringing them to the centre. We will ask you to confirm you have done a health check every day upon drop off.
- We will plan staggered drop off and pick up times.

Staff Health Policy & Contingency Plan if Staff Ill

- We have an extra staff person in case a staff member becomes ill.

New Routines to Reduce Group Size and Increase Physical Space

- Our health officials recognize that physical distancing is not practical or reasonable for preschool-age children.
- We will do our best indirectly incorporate these practices in the following ways:
 - o Increase outside time, where we have more space. (In July, August, and September we will operate outside nearly the whole class time.)
 - o Rearrange workspaces inside to promote physical distancing.
 - o Place seat markers during group activities to promote physical distancing.

- Play games, read books, and sing songs that encourage best practices.
- There will be NO sharing snack or food preparation activities.
- Water bottles and lunch bags will remain in backpacks when not in use.

Handwashing

- Proper handwashing is key and will be modelled and reinforced daily in a fun and relaxed way. We have posted handwashing posters around the facility as a reminder for everyone!
- Children will be expected to wash their hands...
 - When they arrive at the preschool and when they go home
 - Before eating and drinking
 - After using the washroom
 - After sneezing or coughing into hands
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- 6 steps to proper handwashing:
 1. Wet hands with warm running water.
 2. Apply a small amount of soap.
 3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds (sing your favourite song).
 4. Rinse off all the soap with running water.
 5. Dry hands with a paper towel.
 6. Discard used paper towel in waste container.

Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

- We will teach children to cough or sneeze into their arm (“cough pocket”) or a tissue.

Fever or Coughing

- All children or staff who are ill with fever, have a cold, influenza or infectious symptoms of any kind need to stay home. If children or staff have symptoms, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms until the symptoms have completely resolved.
- If a child or staff member starts showing symptoms of what could be COVID-19 or influenza, we will:
 - Contact the parent or caregiver to come pick them up right away. (Please ensure we have up to date contact numbers for you and your emergency contacts.)
 - Separate the child with a staff member in a separate room until their parent or caregiver can come pick them up.
 - Ensure staff that show symptoms go home right away.
 - Continue to practice good handwashing and respiratory hygiene.
 - Do a thorough clean of space once the child has been picked up.

Masks

- The use of masks are not recommended for children. In young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.
- Staff are not required to wear masks, but we will have masks available for staff should they feel the need to use.

Cleaning and Disinfectant Supplies & Routine

- We clean with environmentally-friendly, hydrogen peroxide-based disinfectants.
- We will increase our regular cleaning and disinfecting of objects and high-touch surfaces and record on our daily cleaning log.

Withdrawal Policy Due to COVID-19 Illness

- If you notify us in writing that you are withdrawing your child due to COVID-19, we will...
 - o Not charge fees for the following calendar month or future months the child is withdrawn due to COVID-19.
 - o We will issue a pro-rated refund for fees already paid or apply a future credit.
 - o We will hold your child's registered space, for as long as your child is still eligible for the space, until we return to normal operations.