



Precious Seeds Montessori House

Montessori & Forest Programs

COVID-19 Health Policy: Preschool Program

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 and Absence

In case of withdrawal from school, parents are required to give one full calendar month written notice of the withdrawal from the program. Absence due to illness or holidays are not exempt from payment.