



## Devonshire Preschool COVID-19 Protection Policies - September 2020

**NOTE: To control and minimize the spread of germs within classrooms and overall facility, these guidelines are intended to be followed until further notice. Program Procedures when we reopen are as follows:**

For the continued health and safety of our program participants Devonshire Cultural Center is making significant modifications in how we conduct our day-to-day programming and activities.

As we prepare to reopen our preschool program, we have outlined critical health and safety measures that will be followed to ensure the health and safety of the children, staff and families at Devonshire Preschool. Please note all of our policies and procedures were derived from and comply with the recommendations of the CDC, DCFS and Restore IL Phase 4 plans. Should their recommendations evolve, we will continue to update and inform everyone. These health and safety measures will be in place until further notice.

### **Facility Cleaning Procedure:**

Illinois' Day Care Licensing regulations are designed to keep children healthy and safe and to support their learning and development in ECE programs. Strong infection control policies are not new to DCC, but the current pandemic requires many new procedures and policies pursuant to guidance from public health experts to protect the health of children, staff and their families.

Devonshire Cultural Center does employ the use of a commercial cleaning/sanitation machine to maintain a germ-free facility. Currently, this machine is used for rigorous cleaning, including all frequently touched surfaces, furnishings, carpets, floors, bathrooms, door knobs, kitchen, etc. It is utilized on a weekly basis when students are not present.

Staff will continue to wash and sanitize surfaces, entryways, bathrooms, toys, manipulatives, board books, mouthed toys (if any) and items used by staff/children during the day. Hand sanitizers are available for adult use at the front desk.

In addition to our regular daily/weekly cleaning checklist, each classroom will complete a specific "COVID-Cleaning" checklist that outlines additional/more frequent cleaning that will be needed to intensify the efforts. Children will be assisted in proper handwashing after using the bathrooms and before eating.

### **Curriculum and Day-Long Activities:**

- \*Minimal movement of staff within classrooms and in doing so we can better track sickness/illness within groups.
- \*Staff and children will not combine and/or visit other classrooms.
- \*Staff will work their shift in one room; their assigned classroom.
- \*Children will not leave their classroom except for walks or playing in the fenced off backyard.
- \*Minimal toys will be brought out. Wash/Sanitize toys when done playing.
- \*All classrooms will remove fabric toys such as books, stuffed animals etc.

\*Although children love bringing toys from home for “Show ‘N Tell” activity; this will be suspended.

\*Sensory water table play will be suspended.

### **Meals/Snacks:**

\* During meals/snack times, children will be distanced at 6 ft.

\*Food will be left on the kitchen counter (instead of on the table) to avoid children’s sneeze/coughs.

\*DCC will use disposable paper products for meals and snacks.

### **Laundry in hot water:**

\*Cot sheets will be washed once a week.

### **Naps:**

\*Cots are set 6 feet apart.

### **Social Distancing:**

While the general public has been asked to socially distance by keeping 6 feet of personal space, this concept cannot realistically be applied to young children on consistent basis, especially in a group care setting. Because of this, the CDC and DCFS focus on maintaining small groups, with consistent children and staff in each group to limit the possible exposure and spread of illness.

Classroom furniture will be rearranged if needed to create physical boundaries for small groups to be easily maintained throughout the day. To further emphasize social distancing, classroom activities will focus on opportunities for individual play, such as fine motor activities, tabletop toys etc. Toys will be carefully selected to ensure they are easy to clean and sanitize after each use.

Staff is directed to pay particular attention if a child sneezes as a more thorough sanitation should take place of the area (due to aerosolized droplets that we keep hearing from health experts).

One room will serve as a sick-child waiting room. Per DCFS guidelines, this room will be cleaned and sanitized promptly after using for a sick child/staff.

### **Non-Essential Visitors:**

All non-essential visitors will be prohibited from entering our facility until further notice.

### **Children’s Arrival and Departures:**

\*Please know that this is a very temporary modification to our standard “open door” policy and we look forward to welcoming all of our amazing families back inside our facility when it is safe to do so.

\*To further reduce the potential exposure inside our facility, parents will be asked to drop-off children at designated spots which will be further detailed in the Preschool Orientation packet to be distributed in late August, 2020.

**\*Parents should wear masks at all times when walking in/out of DCC.**

**\*Staff and children will be required to wear masks throughout the day while indoors.**

\*Limit of one parent/adult will drop off child/children at DCC. We plan on assigning a staff/floater to take children back/forth to the child’s classroom.

\*Before accepting, the teacher will follow the usual procedure to scan the child for illness symptoms. We will use sterilized thermometers to take children's temperature. *Please know staff will get temperature checked before signing-in to start their work shift.*

\*Staff will sign the child in/out each day and staff will reserve the right to ask parent/guardian for identification upon pick up.

\*Children will wash hands in the classroom.

### **Handwashing Guidelines:-**

Recommendations outlined by CDC will be implemented for all children and staff using hand soap and or hand sanitizer. Children will not be using hand sanitizer. Hand washing will be conducted throughout the day.

### **Sick Child Policy:**

Devonshire Preschool has modified our existing sick-child policies to the following:

All persons (teachers & children) entering our facility will have temperatures checked using a sterilized thermometer. Any person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher will not be permitted inside our facility. We kindly ask that families check temperatures each morning prior to arrival to ensure children are well and symptom-free. Please know, as a parent you play a huge role in maintaining a safe and healthy environment at DCC, for yours and all other children. If you, your child or anyone living in your home exhibit COVID related symptoms, we ask that you keep your child home and inform us immediately.

Should your child become sick and/or show Covid-19 related symptoms while at school, he/she will be removed from the classroom and will wait with a staff member in a designated area. Parents will be called to immediately pick-up the child. A consultation with the child's pediatrician for further guidance will be required to determine if home isolation or testing will be required. If the child or teacher in that class tests positive for COVID19, we would contact the Village of Skokie Health Department and follow their directives.

The sick person's confidentiality will be maintained while program families, Skokie Health Department and IL DCFS will be informed as per protocol. Substitute staff will be assigned to the room.

### **Communication:**

Throughout this critical time, we remain committed to providing you with frequent and transparent communication. In the event that there is a confirmed case that requires home isolation, we will notify our families and staff immediately. Additionally, we ask for the same transparent information from our families and staff in return.