

## **August 2020 Growing Tree COVID-19 Safety Protocols**

Growing Tree continues to update all COVID-19 policies, procedures, and protocols as the situation requires.

We keep a binder with copies of all relevant guidelines and updates which come from a variety of government agencies and are meant to complement current licensing regulations updated 7/15/2020.

Operating within a pandemic requires us to seek to a cohesive policy of best practices as much as possible and to the best of our ability.

Growing Tree reserves the right to make all day to day operational decisions that fall within the current licensing regulations.

Growing Tree also reserves the right to make all operational decisions on a day to day basis as warranted to close a classroom(s) if licensing regulations temporarily cannot be met.

We have continuous staff training in safety protocols relating to classroom management including but not limited to:

Daily surface cleaning log, procedures for toy rotations and cleaning throughout the day, ventilation, spacing of activities, and handling of individual classroom materials. Defined cleaning protocols between group use in all yard areas.

Classroom schedule includes frequent hand washing for staff and children including hand washing upon arrival and departure from school.

We implement separate ingress and egress procedures to limit any contact with different classes as well as parent zones to create a distanced drop off outside classrooms.

Our staff handbook outlines requirements for masking at all times as well as additional face shielding, use of gloves and other coverings appropriate for specific activities requiring close contact or additional safety measures throughout the day such as bathroom use, diapering, and comforting!

All group staff areas have been eliminated. All entry by visitors or delivery personnel has been eliminated.

Growing Tree reserves the right to refuse access or service to anyone not following posted protocol.

Our updated student intake forms require a signed group participation agreement which states all families enrolled at Growing Tree agree to follow the CDC guidelines set forth. Growing Tree staff are also required to sign the same group participation agreement as part of our commitment to COVID-19 safety protocols.

All families and staff will be notified of any verified COVID-19 exposure reports involving anyone at school - children, families, or staff. All notifications will respect everyone's privacy rights.

Any infection related closures / reopening are determined on a case by case basis with health department assistance and CDC group guidance procedures.

Please refer to the updated parent handbook addendum on this site for further COVID-19 policies and protocols in place.

For those families enrolled in the 2020/21 school year, please refer to the welcome letter and video which have been emailed to you. Both of these informative resources further detail and offer examples of the specific procedures in place to maintain and promote safety while we all learn and grow at school this year.