July 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Given the COVID-19 crisis, I want to assure you that we are monitoring the situation closely. Based on information we have at this time, we will continue to operate Eighty-First Street ECE Center to minimize disruption to you and your family. If the situation should change, we will notify you immediately.

Effective now, we are taking extra precautions to ward off COVID-19. We are taking these extra steps to support the health and safety of your children, your family, and our staff.

Please take note of the following changes to our policies and procedures:

**Check-In and Pick-Up**

* Families will be met at the door or curb where a staff member will greet the child(ren). Parents and other family members will not be allowed inside the building. Prior to parents, a staff member will take the temperature of the child(ren), and ask parents to confirm that their child has not been on fever reducing medication in the last 24 hours and does not have shortness of breath or a cough.
* Children and staff will be required to wash their hands immediately upon entering the building, and regularly throughout the day. When children are received for drop-off, they will be escorted to the nearest handwashing sink where they will wash their hands prior to being brought to their classroom.
* Upon arrival to pick up your child, a staff member will bring your child out to you. Doing so will limit direct contact and help us to maintain social distancing from the cafeteria door. Again, we can not have anyone inside the building.

**Healthy Environment**

* We will separate children into groups of 24 or fewer including the teacher and paraprofessionals.
* We will not share toys, etc. and will clean between uses.
* All classrooms will remain separated to reduce the number of children in one area and to reduce the possibility of viral transmission.
* Staff will disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, faucets, toys and games that children play with on a regular basis.
* Staff will wash their hands and have the children wash their hands a minimum of every two hours.

**Child Health**

* Staff will receive education on [COVID-19 symptoms,](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) as well as preventive measures.
* Children who start to experience [symptoms of respiratory illness](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html#Children), including a fever of >100.4 while at school, cough or runny nose, will be isolated from other children until they can be picked up.

If the current situation changes and it becomes necessary to update our procedures or close our school, we will notify you.  Thank you for your understanding and patience as we implement these new procedures. Our goal is to minimize disruption, while at the same time keeping you, your family and our staff healthy and well.

Sincerely,

Deborah Alexander

Principal