



March 30, 2020

Dear Valued Southwest Families,

Southwest Child Care has been committed to the health and safety of children, their families, and our staff for over 30 years. We know firsthand the positive power of effective handwashing and sanitizing procedures!

As concerns about COVID-19 continue, we are monitoring and responding to all directives from the Governor's office. We remain open for children whose parents are considered 'essential employees'. If you are not an essential employee, *you may not drop your child off for care until the order is lifted*. Businesses the Governor has deemed essential are available on the NM Dept. of Health website, <https://cv.nmhealth.org/stay-at-home-essential-businesses/>, or by talking to your center's directors. We are doing our best to stay open through this state of emergency.

To protect our staff and the children in our care, staff will receive your children at the door at drop-off and bring them back to you when you arrive for pick-up. Additionally, each child's temperature will be checked at drop-off, and children with a temperature will not be allowed to stay.

If your child is in one of our pre-k classrooms and not currently attending, your child's teachers will be reaching out to you in the next few days. The pre-k staff is developing a plan for continued learning for your children. It is important for young children to maintain the relationships they've built with their teachers and friends. Please consider allowing your child to participate in the online group activities your child's teachers plan. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding the Pre-K graduations scheduled for May.

We have received information about many, many resources for families during this time. There is a comprehensive list located on the New Mexico Kids website: [www.newmexicokids.org](http://www.newmexicokids.org). The home page contains family resources – just scroll down. There are also tabs across the top including one labeled "Home Learning". If your family is in need, please reach out to us. We might know of a resource to help you.

Our staff are critical to the continued functioning of our city, and we are extremely grateful for them and proud of their work.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Executive Team of Southwest Child Care

