

## COVID-19 Business Update #4

Friday, May 8, 2020



Dear Southwest Families,

We are happy to announce that the governor is now allowing childcare centers to serve all our families. It has been an honor to serve the children of essential employees, but we have missed our school family!

If you are considering a return to childcare, please call your center directly so we can schedule our staff appropriately.

Over the last couple of months, we have implemented added health and safety measures to help keep staff and families healthy. Our practices have been directed by the NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department and align with the CDC's recommendations for childcares remaining open during this time.

If your child will be returning to the center, here is some information to help with the transition:

- We transfer children at the front door to minimize outside exposure within the building. Thank you for waiting at the front door and having us check your children in and out for you. Please wear a face mask to protect our staff during this transition. We will also be wearing face masks to protect you. Thank you for your cooperation.
- All children are screened immediately upon arrival. If they have a fever or are showing symptoms of illness, they will not be allowed to stay at the center. Please do not bring them if they are ill!
- Our staff are now required to wear masks, and in some instances additional personal protective equipment (PPE). Please do not be alarmed if you see our staff wearing additional protective gear. Please prepare your children for this as well.
- Children 3 and older are welcome to wear masks, but they are not mandatory at this time. We do not provide children's masks.
- We continue to sanitize all areas of the center throughout the day.
- We are partnering with families of currently attending school-age children to assist with schoolwork and finish out the school year. Please discuss your child's schooling requirements with your office team by phone. We will do our best to accommodate them if we are able.
- Our pre-k teachers continue to offer daily virtual class meetings for children at home to provide an opportunity for children to maintain friendships and connections. These sessions are encouraged, but not mandatory! It is most important for families to do what is best for their children. NM PreK will officially end on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please watch for notices from your child's teacher for end-of-year activities.
- It is important to prepare your child for all the changes happening around them as well as a different center environment. Southwest Child Care has been using Conscious Discipline™ for many years. Their website is full of new resources created just for helping children affected by COVID-19 issues. Access is free; visit [www.consciousdiscipline.com](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com).

We wish all our families continued health and safety and look forward to seeing all of you again,

*Your Southwest Child Care School Family*