



November 2, 2020

Dear Southwest Families,

It is officially ~~winter~~ fall! Last week we experienced a snowstorm that was fitting for 2020 – unusual and record-breaking! **Please remember, we update our Facebook page with delays and closures.** We also try to email families, but you can always get the latest information on our public Facebook page. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can still access our Facebook page...ask us how.

We are happy to be providing NM PreK face-to-face and welcoming back more and more families, however, we cannot ignore the current number of positive Covid-19 cases. **We must continue strict enforcement of our Covid-safe practices,** and we appreciate your cooperation so that we can keep your children and our staff as healthy and safe as possible. Please visit our website, www.southwestchildcare.com, to learn more about our Covid-safe practices, and **read below for specific support we need from you.**

- **COVID-19 support** – Our staff work very hard to adhere to strict COVID-19 safe practices mandated by the state. If we have a positive case, staff or child, the NM Department of Health's Rapid Response Team and Childcare Licensing determine our closure and reopening. During closure, sanitization and contact tracing will occur, and the children and the staff who were in close contact with the positive person will have to quarantine for 14 days. Because cases are on the rise, and this could be a matter of life or death for someone, **you must:**
 - **Be sure your child is wearing a mask.** Regardless of your feelings about masks, we are required by law to enforce mask wearing for children 3 years and older. Please:
 - Encourage and model proper mask wearing which includes covering the nose. Your child cannot stay at the center without a mask. **We will call you to pick up your child if he/she has no mask or refuses to wear a mask.**
 - Send a CLEAN mask and a backup mask every day. Children are 'hard' on their masks – chewing, dropping, sneezing, breaking straps, you name it!
 - Write your child's name on his/her masks!
 - **Pledge** that you will practice physical distancing, mask wearing, and other Covid-safe behaviors at all times.
 - **Keep your children at home** for the appropriate amount of time if they or you:
 - are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 - have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19
 - have been out of town to a high-risk state within the last 14 days
 - **Don't enter our building.** We miss you, but this is a state mandate. We appreciate your patience at drop off and pick up - you are welcome to call ahead and let the office know that you are on your way. Also, please use phone and email to discuss business matters with us.
- **Schoolltime support!!** We are happy to assist children with their virtual/online learning, but we need your help. Our teachers assist up to twenty children with twenty different schedules while managing twenty devices with multiple passwords for each app. Our teachers cannot provide ongoing one-on-one assistance or sit beside them while they take a test. They also will not force a child to participate in their sessions. **Please set your child up for success by:**

- sending him/her each day with a fully-charged device and a charger labeled with your child's name.
- providing headphones – APS teachers are complaining that the background noise is too loud. Also, your child can hear and focus better with headphones.
- labeling all the components with your child's name and containing them all in a laptop case or backpack! Twenty children with twenty devices with twenty chargers...it is very helpful to have your child's items well-labeled as well as all contained.
- checking your child's assignments for completion/accuracy when you get home. Our staff do not assume responsibility for making sure your child's work is complete and/or accurate.
- **LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS** – especially coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves. It makes our teachers' lives so much easier!

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Our goal is to continue to provide high quality care and early education. while at the same time keeping you, your family, and our staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Your Southwest Child Care School Family