



## **Under the Willow School**

### **COVID -19 Policy**

#### **Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures**

1. Before school, while still at home, please make sure your child is healthy and well to participate in a day of outdoor play in all weather.
2. Health Guidelines recommend that if possible, a designated person drop off and pick up your child each day. Anyone self-quarantining may not come.
3. Adults are asked to not enter the school house or outdoor play yard at this time to help limit possible exposure.
4. Adults are required to wear masks or face coverings when on our school property. Please practice social distancing.
5. A teacher will greet you at the gate and usher one family at a time into the play yard. Please social distance while waiting outside the gate by using the front sidewalk area. Once inside the gate, there will be a health screening table, where your child will have their temperature taken with a non-contact forehead thermometer to confirm their temperature is below 100 degrees. There will also be a handwashing station for children to wash their hands before entering the play yard.
6. Once the health check is completed please meet your teacher at the play stand on the patio. We will help you transition there. Please say goodbye at the play stand on the patio to respect the threshold and make drop off easier for your child. Again, we ask parents to not enter the play yard or school house to limit exposure.
7. At pick up please wait outside the gate or on the patio behind the play stand and teachers will bring the children to meet their designated pick up person.

#### **Health and Wellness Policy:**

Teachers will have their temperatures checked regularly.

Children and teachers exhibiting the following symptoms will exclude themselves from the classroom until symptoms clear:



- A significant amount of nasal discharge, particularly if the discharge is yellow or greenish in color.
- A persistent cough
- An elevated temperature of 100.4 degrees or more during the last 72 hours.
- A significant sore throat
- Chills, loss of appetite, unusual fatigue, and/or lingering headache.
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours.
- Repeated episodes of diarrhea within the last 24 hours.

If a teacher or child receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis all teachers and parents will be notified.

### **Health Hygiene and Cleaning/ Disinfecting Policy:**

Children learn through imitation. Therefore, the teachers will continue to model healthy hygiene practices.

1. The teachers will be modeling and practicing regular handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds with themselves and the children ( before coming in contact with any child, before and after eating, after sneezing, coughing or nose blowing, after using the restroom, before handling food, after touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated.
2. The teacher will be modeling and encouraging the children to cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of the elbow.
3. Intensified cleaning of high traffic areas will happen throughout the day. All toys will be cleaned at the end of each day. Bathrooms will be cleaned after each use.
4. Each child will have a “Magic Carpet” with their symbol on it. Our meals will happen outside as long as possible, sitting on our magic carpets. We will use them to distance for puppet plays and story time. Our carpets will be washed regularly.
5. Nap time will happen outside unless we experience inclement weather. Teachers will create a cozy atmosphere in shade tents (with resting cots, sheets, blankets and pillows). Teachers will create a warm and comforting naptime environment to encourage healthy sleep and rest time for all the children. Children will be spaced 6ft apart head to toe if possible. Nap bedding will be stored in plastic bags so they cannot touch other items. Cots will be disinfected daily and bedding washed weekly.



## **Physical Distancing**

Young children cannot be expected to follow physical distancing guidelines and **will interact** with their peers during play. Therefore, the adults will provide an environment will this can happen as safely as possible.

1. Teachers will wear clear face shields as long as it is a state requirement. State guidelines say children over 2 may wear masks, we do not feel it is developmentally appropriate to ask children in Early Childhood to wear masks and will not ask children to do so.
2. In the early fall and as long as the weather permits, we will be exclusively outside. We will be playing in the yard and going for walks to the river. We are putting up a shade tent in the yard to provide a comfortable space for children to play out of direct sunlight or in the event of rain. We will also have shade over our sand pit, and a new play and climbing structure. Our willow tree will offer a cozy shaded space for quiet play. We will have circle, story, crafting, puppet play and painting day. Our usual curriculum will happen, only outside this year.
3. On the porch each child will have a designated cubby (milk crate) with their symbol on it. Please bring spare clothes in a large zip lock plastic bag with your child's name on it.
4. We plan to create a warm, comfortable, positive environment that is safe and clean. We will limit exposure risk as much as possible. At the same time, we believe it is equally important to make sure we are meeting the children's developmental, social, emotional and mental health needs as well. We will comfort, hold and hug the children.

**As a community we are embarking on a new kind of journey together during the time of a pandemic. With compassion for each other and the children we surround, I am confident we will have a wonderful year in spite of the times we find ourselves in.**

**It is my commitment that the above-mentioned document will have no effect on our children and they will meet the year as a new adventure.**