

## **Opening in the time of COVID-19**

We wanted to share some of the changes we are making at our preschool to open and operate under our current “normal.” First and foremost, the safety and health of our children, families, and staff is of the utmost importance to us! We are doing our best to make sure we create the best environment we can. Here’s what we are doing:

### **Drop off and Pick up:**

These procedures will allow us to limit the number of people in and out of our facility.

Every morning for drop off, parents will bring their child to the playground gate. A teacher will meet you there and open the gate for your child to enter and do a quick temperature check. On rainy days, a teacher will meet you at the front door and will escort your child to their classroom. At this time, parents will not enter the school with their child.

At pick up, if children are on the playground, a teacher will bring your child to the gate. All parents will be asked to wait outside the gate. If children are inside the building, parents will use the door buzzer and a teacher will bring their child to them at the door.

### **During the school day:**

We will be utilizing our playground as an outdoor classroom as much as possible! We are so lucky to have such a large playground space; and we are going to make awesome use of it! Our classes will be spending a lot more time outside during the school day, and our teachers will be adapting our curriculum in order to do so. We will have shade umbrellas at both of the tables we have outdoors and may be setting up extra tables outside for the children to work on as well. This does not mean that we won’t be using our classrooms, but we will definitely be spending more time outside this fall. Please be sure to apply sunscreen or sunblock before you drop your child off at school. On rainy days we will still go outside, so please be sure to send raincoats and boots or an extra pair of shoes.

There will be separate bins of outdoor items for each class to use. This will help keep items with a cohort group and limit the number of kids using them; so there will be a bin for the 4s, one for the 3s, and one for the 2s.

At preschool we all learn to wash out hands and this year we will be adding extra washing sessions throughout the day. We will also have hand sanitizer available in each room and on the playground for all staff and students. We will make it fun to practice and sing songs while we teach the children one of the easiest healthy habits to develop.

We will be cutting down on the numbers of communal class supplies. Each student will have their own bag or box of crayons, scissors, glue, paint brushes, etc., that will be theirs to use. These items will not be shared.

We will also be reducing the number of toys that are in the classrooms, and have a variety of bins with different items that can be switched out and cleaned while another is being introduced for that day.

At snack, we will keep the children spread out more than is typical, as oftentimes the entire class will want to squeeze together at one table. We will not have a snack helper as one of our classroom jobs this fall, and will try to use more individually packaged snacks when possible.

For our friends who stay for lunch and aftercare, we will still have access to the fridge for lunch boxes but please do not send items that need to be reheated in the microwave.

We ask that children do not bring toys from home to school with them. In our handbook, we do allow special items to stay in the children's cubbies but this fall we are asking that nothing extra is brought in to the school.

And finally, we will be cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and equipment every day. All surfaces will be wiped down and toys will be disinfected daily.

If you have questions about anything, please don't hesitate to contact us! We are happy to talk through any questions and/or concerns you may have and we will do our best to address them.

You can always reach us by email at: [stphilippreschoolmb@gmail.com](mailto:stphilippreschoolmb@gmail.com) or the office phone at 843-449-4322.