

# SAFETY STRATEGIES WITH THE CHILDREN

*We at the Preschool at Calvary know that socialization is an integral part of a child's development by recognizing their sense of self and how to interact with others. Through socialization, children learn to SHARE, CARE, LOVE, and PROBLEM SOLVE and build on important LANGUAGE SKILLS. As we move forward to the fall, we will implement a safety plan for our children while maintaining the best balance possible for each child's development. Thank you for your patience as we navigate through the ever-changing recommendations and protocols put before us.*

## SOCIAL STRATEGIES

### **CHECK-IN and DISMISSAL:**

*The plans for welcoming the children and parents at check-in and dismissal are still in progress. We will establish a more detailed plan once we get to the completion of the Fairmount building where we can process the flow patterns and organize appropriate procedures.*

### **CLASSROOM STRATEGIES:**

- Preschool classes will include the same group each day, and the same teachers will remain with that group.
- Six feet distancing may not be realistic for children in a preschool setting. Distancing may hinder proper learning and the need for healthy interactions with others:
  - The teachers will make every effort to reinforce the importance of children keeping hands and bodies to themselves and to respectfully recognize the appropriate personal space of another. Please reiterate these actions at home.
  - According to AAP, A lesser distance of 3 feet is acceptable if six feet is not achievable to meet the needs of our preschool aged children.
- Children will be appropriately spaced at each table for learning. Designated seats will be established and rotated monthly.
- During small group activities, the children will remain with the same small group throughout the year.
- We will take advantage of many beautiful days by safely moving learning activities outdoors.
- We will work with the children in teaching how we as a class will collaboratively help each other in reducing the spread of germs by following simple plans in place such as practicing proper hand washing and self-help skills throughout the day (e.g. after bathroom use and before snack).
  - Adequate supplies will be provided including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.
- Teachers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- Special events, activities, performances, and field trips may be developed creatively and safely throughout the year, where feasible.
- Snacks from sealed packages will be provided. Treats for special occasions must be pre-packaged with labels. Disposal plasticware and paper products will be used. Children will not share food or drink.

### **SHARED OBJECTS:**

- Sharing shows kindness and helps develop communication skills. Shared toys and learning tools will be cleaned after each use daily.
- A variety of toys will be rotated between cleaning. Toys or objects difficult to clean or disinfect will be limited in the classroom. Machine washable toys will be cleaned after each use.
- Adequate supplies will be provided to minimize sharing of high touch materials.
- Each child will have a designated hook for their belongings (e.g. coats and bags).
- Learning tools and supplies such as crayons, glue, and pencils will be individually boxed/bagged and marked for each child's personal use.

## **FACE COVERINGS:**

*The use of face coverings may be a challenge for all of us during these unprecedented times. Information about COVID-19 and children is somewhat limited but, the recent mandate of mask wearing for children over the age of two serves to potentially limit virus spread from occurring between all individuals. We are mindful of state and local mandates, while simultaneously giving realistic consideration to the age group of your children under our care. We are striving to meet the physical health and wellness needs of each child, while concurrently maintaining full regard for their emotional well-being and development. Our goal is to successfully arrange our learning environment so the children's experience will be a positive one.*

*It is especially important to us that each family feels comfortable knowing that we have your child's safety and well-being as our highest priority.*

### *The Preschool at Calvary:*

- Face coverings or shields will be worn by staff and are most essential at times when physical distancing is difficult. We hope to use face coverings which enable us to communicate effectively and allow for the children to see our smiles and facial expressions that show our care.
- Children and parents will wear face masks at drop-off and pick-up and when they enter our facility.
- Face masks will be worn indoors when proper distancing is not feasible. We will provide learning activities throughout the day that allow for acceptable distancing with no masks. Assistance in teaching proper handling and use of face coverings is encouraged.
- Children will be appropriately spaced at each table for learning.
- An extra (new or clean) face covering will be provided by each parent should their child's primary covering become soiled during the day.
- We will incorporate opportunities for outdoor learning while recognizing proper distancing.
- We will engage in large motor activities while recognizing safe distances. Outdoor activities will be planned that will allow the children to safely run and play.
- Communication is especially important to us, so please do not hesitate to share any concerns or questions you may have regarding our procedures within the classroom.

*Please understand that the ideas and protocols that have been recently established for our preschool are subject to change based on recommendations or mandates from our state, CDC, Calvary BFC church, school district and community trends at any given time. We appreciate the flexibility of our children and parents as we work through this very fluid situation. Thank you!*

### Link Resources:

Healthy return to school/AAP

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>

Use of cloth face coverings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

How to protect yourself and others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Stop the spread of germs/PBS video for children:

<https://pbskids.org/video/daniel-tigers-neighborhood/2365375359>