

HEALTH & SAFETY STRATEGIES

THE PRESCHOOL AT CALVARY

We have developed Health and Safety strategies to assist in the protection of our students and staff. As we move forward in the fall, we will implement these safety strategies for our program 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. 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.

SOCIAL STRATEGIES:

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, PROBLEM SOLVE, and build on important LANGUAGE SKILLS. Please see our classroom strategies for the numerous ways we hope to strengthen this development safely.

CHECK-IN and DISMISSAL:

The plans for welcoming the children and parents at check-in and dismissal will be presented to our families at the start of the preschool year.

CLASSROOM STRATEGIES:

- Preschool classes will include the same group each day, and the same teachers will remain with that group.
- 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. We feel that "required" distancing may hinder proper learning and the need for healthy interactions with others.
- Children will be appropriately spaced at each table for successful learning. Designated seats will be established and rotated monthly.
- Our goal is to successfully arrange our learning environment so the children's experience will be a positive one.
- 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.
 - Adequate supplies will be provided including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.
 - Stop the spread of germs/PBS video for children:
<https://pbskids.org/video/daniel-tigers-neighborhood/2365375359>
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be used when soap and water are not readily available. A parental permission form for each child will be completed and signed regarding the use of hand sanitizers.
- Teachers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- Staff will follow guidance given for routine cleaning and disinfection of the classroom and toys.
- Fresh air will be circulated throughout the classroom often.

SHARED OBJECTS:

Sharing shows kindness and helps develop communication skills.

- Shared toys and learning tools will be cleaned regularly.
- A variety of toys will be rotated between cleanings. 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). Children may use their own backpack or choose to use a preschool tote bag offered at the start of school.
- Learning tools and supplies such as crayons, glue, and pencils will be individually boxed/bagged and marked for each child's personal use.
- Snacks from sealed packages will be provided. Treats to be shared for special occasions must be in a pre-packaged container with labels. Disposable plasticware and paper products will be used. Staff will use safety gloves for proper handling of food.

FACE COVERINGS:

We are mindful of state and local mitigation recommendations, while simultaneously giving realistic consideration of masking use with the age group under our care. We do our best to meet the physical health and wellness needs of each child, while concurrently maintaining full regard for their emotional well-being and development.

Important Notes:

- Face coverings or shields will be optional and at the discretion of each family.
- If a parent chooses to opt-in to their child wearing a face covering, assistance in teaching proper handling and use of face coverings is necessary.
 - An extra (new or clean) face covering will be provided by each parent should their child's primary covering become soiled during the day.
- Children will be appropriately spaced at each table. Clear table guards may be used as an added safety measure during group table time activities and snack time.
- Outdoor activities will be planned that will allow the children to safely learn, run and play without the use of a face covering.
- Kindness and respect will be encouraged regarding personal safety choices and comfort levels of others within our program and community.
- 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.

More detailed Health and Safety information and protocols will be given at the start of preschool. Please understand that these protocols are subject to change based on recommendations from our state and local health agencies, Calvary BFC church, school district or 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!