

School for Little Children Overview of COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

School for Little Children is planning to open the school year on August 31. We have missed your children in our building, and we are ready to play! Please read on for an *overview* of plans we have made to open school as safely as we can while staying true to what we know to be important for young children's development. As mentioned in a previous email, we are *not* at the beginning stages of planning. Our committee of teachers and administrators has done thorough research into the guidelines of at least five different public health entities that have a direct impact on early childhood education, and we have devised policies and procedures to meet the guidelines. You can be assured that as conditions change we will adjust our plans and procedures as needed, and we will notify you of any significant changes.

Keep in mind that while we will do everything reasonable to keep children, their families, and our staff healthy, School for Little Children is not an environment that is 100% risk free. The responsibility lies with each individual person and family to maintain a healthy environment for children by following our school policies and those of local government.

The plans outlined below are still in development and may change as conditions and needs change. Please do not consider them set in stone. Topics outlined below are tuition, back-to-school, carpool, cleanliness, and illness. Other topics will be described in our completely revamped Parent Handbook, available later this summer.

Tuition

The SLC School Board voted to approve our tuition plan which has considerations for unscheduled interruptions in which our **whole school** is closed. In the event of an unscheduled interruption, tuition will be adjusted based on the amount of time school is closed as outlined in the chart below. You will note there is a column called Educational Support. That refers to enrichment activities provided by your child's teachers when we are away from school which would continue for one month beyond your tuition obligation.

If school is in session *one week or longer* in a month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Educational Support</u>
Current	full	yes
Second	half	yes
Third	zero	yes
Fourth	zero	no

If school is in session *less than one week* in a month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Educational Support</u>
Current	half	yes
Second	half	yes
Third	zero	yes
Fourth	zero	no

Back to School Plans

We are excited to have children back in classrooms, and we want their transition to school to be as smooth as possible. Each child and a parent or caregiver will have an individual in-person class visitation in mid to late August to meet their teachers and become familiar with the classroom environment. Teachers will have information to share with parents.

Parent Orientation is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, August 27, and will be held virtually on Zoom. Each pair of teachers will meet with parents as a group to share information specific to their classroom. It will also be a chance for parents to meet and greet each other.

Only staff and students are permitted in the school. Parents are not permitted unless there is specific need to be there and arrangements are made in advance. So, for the first time ever, school arrival and departure will be in a carpool line in one of two locations on campus. Parents will receive specific instructions, including time, location, and identification signs for cars before school begins. Teachers will be present to welcome children and escort them to the proper place in the morning and guide them to the proper car for departure at noon. Carpool will include a health screening every morning which is described below in the section on illness.

Cleanliness

As you can imagine, there are detailed guidelines for maintaining a clean environment at school. The good news is that School for Little Children already meets or exceeds the guidelines. Because we are accredited by NAEYC, our standards are already very high. The teachers regularly clean, and we have a custodial staff who cleans after school every day. The products we use to clean are on the EPA's list of products effective against COVID-19, and the recommended procedures for diapering and handwashing are well-established habits for us. We will add in some new guidelines for sanitizing and quarantining toys and books from one class before they are used in another.

Illness

The best way to handle illness is to prevent it. To that end, everyone must do their part to maintain healthy and safe environment. That includes staying home when sick or presenting symptoms of illness. Everyone will be screened for illness before entering the building. Children in carpool will receive a brief health screening before they exit the car including taking their temperature with an infrared thermometer. Parents will be asked brief questions. **Any child exhibiting ANY sign of illness whatsoever will not be admitted to school.** A specific list of symptoms of illness will be provided before school begins. There are also specific parameters for when a child may return to school. Some of the symptoms that would keep a child from attending school could be attributed to illnesses other than COVID-19. If your child has a diagnosis of another illness, your child may return *only* if we have a written “Return to School” note from a health care provider, and symptoms have subsided. There will be more details provided before school starts.

If a child should become ill at school, we will care for that child until a parent/caregiver can pick the child up. The ill child will be removed from class and comfortably monitored in a separate area near the school office. Parents should have plans in place to pick up an ill child within 30 minutes of notification.

If a child or family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, you will notify School for Little Children immediately, and we will notify the Harris County Health Department and Child Care Licensing to report the case. We will follow their instructions for contact tracing, notification, and cleaning. Their instructions may include classroom or school closure and/or self-quarantine for those exposed. Any child or staff member who has had close contact with an infected person will not return to school until the end of a 14-day self-quarantine period.

Masks

Guidelines about mask wearing have recently changed both in public settings and within the childcare realm. It is reasonable to expect them to continue to change. At this time, children under the age of 10 are not required to wear masks, and children under the age of two are not permitted to wear masks. We are working to find a suitable balance between health of children and adults and the crucial development of children’s language and speech which depends upon clear visual and auditory signals.

July 8, 2020