

Beacon Family,

Here is a significant amount of information regarding our re-opening and though it is long, ALL of it is important to know prior to returning to Beacon. We hope you find this information useful. It is intended to inform you of procedures we've put in place. Overall, we expect to operate close to previous standards in the eyes of our students. Most operations were in place pre-COVID. We do not expect our new procedures to affect our students experience of engaging in activities through-out the day. We plan to foster social emotional needs as well as cognitive, motor skills, and more.

**Arrival News:**

Please plan to park in the gravel parking lot across from our school if your student is in our preschool or pre-k program. We would like to reserve the front parking spaces for our younger students and for anyone who needs extra assistance. This applies for our most busy times of day between 8:55-9:15. Plan to drop off in the designated location listed below, and please plan for a delay and understand that we are transporting children to their classes in a timely fashion, but there may be delays so that everyone can be appropriately spaced out in 6 ft areas. Have your student completely ready to drop off when you approach the drop off location. They should have all needed belongings inside their backpacks. A staff member will meet you at the door to bring your child/ren inside. DO NOT enter the building, please wait outside for your turn. Your child will be escorted back to their class and will wash hands before engaging in play. Doors will open at 9am.

Students assigned to Mrs. Kristi's class (4-5 year olds) will drop off at the side door of her classroom.

Students assigned to our 2 and 3 year old program will drop off at the front door of the building. Students will be dismissed from the two year old classroom at the door closest to the classroom on the right side of the building. The three's class will dismiss on the left side of the building. Dismissal is at 12:45.

Families with both age groups will assigned an individual drop off location in an email prior to starting.

During the day, we will attempt to social distance whenever possible, however, the children will be allowed to engage in play that involves close contact. Please read and be aware of the most recent health and illness policies adopted by our school. If at any point we feel a child is ill or lethargic, they will be sent home. It is important that we have all needed phone numbers to reach someone who will *be able to pick up your student within 15 minutes of being called*. Everyone should be familiar with the newest guidelines for return to school if illness has occurred.

**Departure:**

Families need to plan to arrive by **no later than 12:45** to allow time to park and pick up while honoring social distancing. Please understand that our teachers and staff will work hard to get children to you as soon as we can. The students will end their educational day at 12:40 and be *prepared to go at 12:45* so they will not miss any activity if you come later. They will be lined up and ready to go at 12:45pm. Our

staff have new closing procedures and will need to make departures quick due to new and additional steps they will be doing at the end of the school day in order to disinfectant and prepare the classrooms for the following day. Please keep conversations to a minimum and if there is a need to talk further with a teacher, please notify admin and we will find an appropriate time during the day for the teacher to call you if needed. Please use same parking guidelines as arrival to optimize our parking spaces.

Please be aware of the following policies being implemented at Beacon Cary immediately and for the future as deemed necessary for COVID prevention.

-We will no longer serve a morning snack and will only serve provided lunches from home. Please plan to feed your student a good breakfast prior to coming to school.

-All food must be brought in sealed containers and labeled with student's name on packaging/containers. Any "lost" containers without a name will be disposed of.

-All water-bottles must be labeled with student's name and must fit into their back-pack without leaking. An alternate suggestion would be to find a water-bottle that has a handle that can hang from a hook. All water-bottles will be stored on the student's hook or in their back-pack instead of the bucket we previously used.

-We will no longer allow pacifiers or any type of lip balm or lotion to be utilized at school. The only exception will be diaper cream, which will be applied with a glove. Please apply all sunscreen, bug repellent, and such at home prior to arriving at school.

In addition to the Health Form provided to you from the DHHS, Here are the important health related rules that will be followed:

**-Any person experiencing a fever of 100.4 or higher may not attend school until they are fever-free for 3 days without the aid of medication.** If the child also presents with additional symptoms, they will need to be Covid tested or remain out of school until they complete a 14 day quarantine. All DHHS and CDC guidelines must be followed prior to return, this changes often and admin will share the most recent information with families if needed.

**-Any person experiencing symptoms of difficulty breathing, coughing, feeling lethargic, diarrhea/vomiting and loss of taste or smell may not attend school until they are symptom free for 3 days without the aid of medication.**

-Additional symptoms to look for and remain home if experiencing include feeling lethargic, chills, achiness, not eating or drinking, general fussiness, and if for any reason the student is unable to participate in activities as normal.

PLEASE READ AND FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE DHHS COVID 19 INFORMATION SHEET SHARED WITH YOU. We suggest posting your printed copy somewhere at your house to refer to if you have any health concern to consider.

Daily Health Checks will include:

-Upon arrival, each student's temperature will be taken via a contactless forehead thermometer before entry. If this indicates a temp higher than 99.6 we will also utilize an underarm thermometer to take a follow-up temp. Anyone experiencing a temp higher than 100 will be asked to remain home. If the temp is 100.4 or higher they will have to follow rules posted above for COVID symptoms.

-Guardians who drop off should be prepared to answer questions related to the health of their student over the following 24 hours. Questions may include things to indicate if they are healthy, eating and sleeping properly, or if you have any concerns to share with us such as an allergy, ear infection, etc. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE HONEST AND PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR CHILD'S DAY. HEALTH INFO SHARED WILL ONLY BE SHARED WITH TEACHERS AS NEEDED.

-Upon arrival, each student will be escorted by a staff member to the sink to wash hands before engaging in play.

-Please confirm with Admin that we have all updated phone numbers, addresses and contacts (as many as possible) in the event that a child becomes ill while at school. We will need ill children to be picked up within 15 minutes. If you have a situation where that timeframe would not work for you, it is your responsibility to find someone local who can arrive within that time frame.

Our Staff's commitment to providing preventive measures:

-Proper spacing "markers" will be placed for lining up in hallways and classrooms. Spacing will be utilized to the best of our ability for table activities where more than one child is at the table at a time.

-Our staff will vacuum and mop classrooms daily or more frequently if needed.

-Our staff will disinfect toys, materials, and equipment daily and as needed. If we see a toy that has been "mouthed" we will remove it from rotation and disinfect it immediately. At the end of the day, all equipment and toys will be disinfected.

-Tables will be disinfected prior to and after use.

-Bathrooms will be disinfected between uses and cleaned at end of day and as needed.

-Health checks will be performed often and as needed through-out the day.

-All age groups will remain with only the students from their own age-group, there will not be any combination of classes or interactions with other classes once class lists are established. Each class will have its own outdoor time.

-One main teacher will be assigned with each class. This will be the one person who will interact on a regular basis with those students. Admin will assist only if needed.

-Staff will wear a facemask when within 6 ft of the students (Such as during a diaper change).

-Staff will practice proper handwashing often and as needed if they interact in contact with a student. Hand-Sanitizer will be provided for times when a sink is not available such as outdoors.

-Only one class will utilize the playground at a time.

-All food consumed by a class in the event of a celebration must be store-bought, and pre-packaged. We will not be able to serve "buffet style" or serve multiple foods placed within reach of children. This would apply for celebrations, not individual lunches. If a family would like to share food for a celebration, please discuss options with admin and teacher to ensure we can accommodate. Suggestions that would work under the circumstances are items such as popsicles, baked goods prepackaged such as Little Debbie snacks or muffins, prepackaged crackers such as goldfish or pretzels, and things like packs of gummy snacks.

General Info regarding procedures:

-Children aged 4+ will be allowed to wear a face mask if their family would like them to, however, we will not make them keep it on if they experience any type of breathing issue or need to communicate. They will need to remove it to eat, drink, and if a teacher feels there is a need for the mask to be removed for the safety of the student.

-Children aged 3 and under will not be allowed to wear a face mask as it could hinder their breathing and cause a more serious health problem at these younger ages. In addition, it hinders their ability to communicate.

Tuition:

Tuition credits for March/ April will be used to cover June/ July/ August 2020 tuition depending on your date of return. When you confirm your return date, you will receive an email about 1 week before the date your child will start that includes information on who their teacher will be as well as give you specific information on your tuition fee if there is any due.

We look forward to opening and providing preschool services for those families wanting and needing to return. As with any type of social setting, we plan to utilize our resources to social distance, and sanitize, but there will be times when students will interact and come in close contact with each other. We will continue to offer activities such as art, science, math, dance, music, outdoor play, and more. It is our desire that the students feel like preschool is a fun and engaging place to come. We will be careful that our procedures do not evoke a feeling of fear in our students. We will focus on how we can work together to properly prevent "germs" from spreading and how we can support each other and encourage good hygiene habits. For those who attend, please know that we understand our important responsibility to care for your student's health and safety and that is as important to us as the responsibility to provide lessons and activities that bring them joy, happiness, excitement and provide time with their friends that we know they are missing 😊

We are excited to see those of you returning on June 8<sup>th</sup>. For those who are returning later, or still deciding, we hope this information has been helpful in understanding what measures are being done to ensure safety and the continuation of fun learning 😊