

## McConnell Preschool Fall 2020 Opening Plan

Safety is our main concern as we approach the 2020-2021 school year at McConnell Preschool. The following plan has been developed with the consideration of practices that align with CDC guidelines, Georgia Department of Health, and The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL): all agencies are committed to supporting early learning and preschool-age providers during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please note: this plan is subject to changes as circumstances and current recommendations change.

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** A staff member will greet you outside, walk your child to their classroom, and at the end of the day, walk them back to their car. Children will stay in their classrooms until they are called for pickup. At this time no visitors are allowed in the school beyond the designated drop-off and pick-up area. Parents can walk their child into class the first week, ONLY IF NEEDED. If a longer time is needed, it must be approved by the director. \* All visitors are required to wear a face covering. Extra will be provided at the main door.

**FACE COVERINGS:** Staff members will use a face covering when in close proximity to students and others. Staff face covering can be removed only if they are able to safely distance at the recommended 6 feet. Masks are recommended but no one under the age of 5 years old will be required to wear a mask. If you do send your child with a mask, make sure you have them practice wearing them outside of your home for the hours that they will be in school.

**TEMPERATURE CHECKS and HEALTH SCREENINGS:** upon arrival all those entering the school will have a temperature check with a non contact forehead thermometer. This includes staff, parents, and children. No one will be permitted in the school with a fever of 100. If, during the day, any of the following symptoms appear your child will be separated from the rest of the people in the center. Your child MUST be picked up from the facility within 30 minutes of being notified.

Symptoms include,

Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher

Dry cough

Shortness of Breath

Chills

Loss of taste or smell

Sore Throat

Muscle aches

While we understand that many of these symptoms can also be related to non-COVID-19 related issues we must proceed with an abundance of caution during this Public Health Emergency. These symptoms typically appear 2-7 days after being infected so please take them seriously. Your child will need to be symptom free without any medications for 72 hours before returning to the facility.

**DAILY SANITATION:** Even before Covid 19, the preschool has operated with a very structured and specified cleaning protocol. This will continue while giving extra attention to high touched surfaces. The preschool will follow CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection recommendations and will be using disinfectant that is active against coronaviruses. We will routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched (such as toys, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures). Toys and supplies that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used. A ULV fogger machine will be used at the end of each school day to disperse a fine disinfectant mist throughout our classrooms.

**HAND WASHING AND SANITIZING:** All children and staff should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

Arrival to the preschool (hand sanitizer will be at the main door)

- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- Before and after diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors or in sand

If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol will be used if soap and water are not readily available

**CLASSROOM SETTING:** Classes will stay within their designated classrooms and age groups with the same teacher. We will be limiting the mixing of children's classes by staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as storytime, art, and music. This will reduce the group size and mixing of children and staff. Consistency of limited contact with other classes will help reduce the potential exposures and may prevent a complete shut down if an exposure does occur.

During pick up, All children will stay in their classroom and be called as a parent arrives and walked out by a staff member.

SNACKTIME: All snacks will be prepared by a gloved and masked staff member and each child will have their own personalized labeled cup for water breaks. These cups will be washed daily at the end of the day.

WHAT IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED CASE?: We will contact all our preschool families if there is a confirmed or suspected case and follow health care guidelines. The classroom and teacher affected will be closed. The duration will be determined by the outbreak levels in the community, and severity of illness in children, or staff. We will consider closing for 1-3 days to do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting and check for ill individuals.

A staff member or child who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to a program when:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery – defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in symptoms AND
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. OR
- It has been at least 3 days (72 hours) since recovery, they have had no contact with a known COVID-19 case, AND a healthcare professional provides a note that the child does not have suspected or confirmed.

