



March 3, 2021

Parent Handbook Addendums/Amendments During COVID-19

Kids' Stuff...the Family Learning Centre on the Thames is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our children, our staff, partners and the community. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 and base our response and actions on recommendations from Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit, the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years branch and additional relevant authorities.

Our guidelines for childcare operations during COVID-19 are approved by the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit and follow the most current recommendations provided by the Ministry of Health. Kids' Stuff has trained all staff to implement measures that will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious illness within our centres. These guidelines are subject to change as per the direction of the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and our local Public Health Unit. Our thanks to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Childcare and Early Years Division for their contribution to the development and compilation of the enhanced health protocols for re-opening childcare in Chatham-Kent.

To view the full Covid-19 protocols, please visit our website at www.kidsstuffchildcare.ca. Given this is an unprecedented time, the protocols are subject to change. Please visit the website regularly for updates and revisions.

How You as a Parent Can Help

- If your child has any sign or symptom of illness, including but not limited to a fever of 37.8 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher, cough, runny nose, sore throat or difficulty swallowing, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, extremer tiredness or muscle aches, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, decrease or loss of smell or taste you are required to

keep them home. Call the program and let them know your child's symptoms, as we track this information for Public Health.

- If someone in your household has come in close contact with an individual who is suspected of having COVID-19 or has a confirmed case of COVID-19, keep your child home. Call the program and let them know, as we track this information for Public Health.
- As much as possible, have the same adult drop-off, and pick-up each day, to reduce the number of adults who come in contact with the staff.
- Plan for drop-off and pick-up to take more time than it usually does to allow for screening for illness and for staff to escort your child to you at the end of the day.
- Provide us with any changes to your contact information or your child's medical information (e.g. allergies)

Curriculum & Programming

Kids' Stuff will continue to deliver a play-based curriculum in our centres. Some adjustments will be made to observe physical distancing.

Examples include:

- The same group of children will stay together, and not mix with other groups
- The same staff will work with one group of children
- Storage for children's personal belongings will be spaced (i.e. use every second cubby)
- Fewer children at each table for play, snacks and lunch
- Toys or equipment that are difficult to clean and disinfect will be stored or use will be monitored (e.g. plush toys, dress-up clothes, puppets, books, board games)
- Craft materials will be provided in individual kits for each child
- Sensory materials like playdough or goop will be provided in individual containers and discarded after each child's use
- Where possible outdoor playtime will be increased
- Staff will incorporate fun learning activities that teach children about physical distancing and personal hygiene

Program Procedure Changes

Drop Off/ Daily Screening Process

A screening area is isolated at the entrance of each child care centre. Each day upon arrival all parents, children and staff will be asked questions provided by Public Health that are designed to screen for illness. Each individual will also be required to have their temperature taken with an infrared thermometer (no touch). If your child is healthy, and screening is completed, a staff member will meet you at the front entrance and escort your child to their room. **Parents will not be permitted to enter the centre at this time.** Your child must be signed in/out at the screening station. Kids' Stuff may request staggered arrival and departure times for families to drop off and pick up if deemed necessary. Your Program Supervisor will provide you will specific details on the current process.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has now directed that the single-symptom screening criteria be applied province-wide.

As of February 25, 2021 children with **any new or worsening symptom** of COVID-19, as indicated in the school and child care screening tool, even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result, or
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

Screening for Before and After School programs that are not centre-based

Before and After school programs that are not centre-based may have unique screening processes. This may include exterior classroom door or window screening. Please contact your Program Supervisor for information on the requirements specific to your site. **Parents will not be permitted to enter the school at this time.** Temperatures will also be taken of children coming from school into the afterschool program.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Kids' Stuff has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures to help reduce the spread of infectious illness. A staff member is dedicated to cleaning and disinfecting rooms, toys and equipment. A schedule of the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting required has been recommended by Public Health. A focus is placed on high touch areas including door handles, sinks, toilets, and toys. Any toy that is difficult to clean and disinfect has been put away (i.e. plush toys, dress-up clothes, puppets). Anytime a child places a toy in their mouth, coughs or sneezes on a toy, it is taken out of rotation until it can be cleaned and disinfected.

Personal Hygiene

Staff and children follow a routine of **hand washing** with soap and water throughout the day. For example, we wash our hands when we arrive at the center, after using the washroom, before and after eating, after playing outdoors, after using a tissue, and any time hands are visibly soiled. Staff schedule hand washing routines into the day and demonstrate how to wash hands and monitor children while they wash their hands.

When running water is not available, for example outdoors, children over the age of 2 years can use **hand sanitizer**. Staff monitor children using hand sanitizer to ensure it is applied properly.

Staff will demonstrate for children how to **cough and sneeze** into the arm or shoulder. Anytime a child uses a tissue they are taught to discard the tissue in a garbage bin, and to wash their hands.

As much as possible staff will remind children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.

Children's personal creams, lotions, and diapers should be labelled with the child's name, and will be stored in an individual container just for that child that is kept out of reach of children on a shelf, or in cupboard.

If a Child Becomes Ill While at the Centre

In the event that a child shows any sign or symptom of illness that cannot be explained (e.g. seasonal allergies), the parent will be called to immediately pick-up their child. If the parent is not available by phone, the emergency contact will be called. While the child waits to be picked-up they will be separated from the other children and staff (isolation) and supervised by one staff member. The staff will wear a mask, shield, gown and gloves, and children over the age of 2 years who can tolerate a mask will be asked to wear one.

Isolation requirement for household contacts of symptomatic individuals

As of February 12 the Ministry of Health has issued updated guidance to public health units regarding COVID-19 variants of concern (COVID-19 Variant of Concern: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance, Version 2.0 – February 12, 2021), **requiring all household contacts of symptomatic individuals to quarantine.**

This guidance is being applied to children, child care staff, providers and placement students by requiring them to stay at home from child care if anyone in their household has new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 **and has been recommended for isolation and testing.**

All asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic household member:

- receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or

- receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional

If the symptomatic individual **tests positive**, or is **not tested** and does not receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional, the symptomatic individual must isolate (including from household members) for 10 days from symptom onset, **and all household contacts must isolate until 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.**

Reporting Suspected Cases of COVID-19 & Testing

The Public Health unit requires childcare centres to report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. In the event an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 the Public Health unit will advise the Program Supervisor and parent of any requirements for testing, and/or self-isolation. Public Health will do contact tracing to determine who the individual came in close contact with at the centre and will determine the requirement for closure of a room or centre based on their findings.

Licensed child care centres are required to report any confirmed COVID-19 cases to the Ministry of Education.

In the event that a confirmed COVID-19 case or an outbreak is declared in a Kids' Stuff location, Kids' Stuff will communicate the information to parents/guardians and staff following explicit direction of the CK Public Health Unit.

Use of Masks and Face Shields

Wearing a face mask and face shield is one strategy to reduce the spread of illness, including COVID-19. All Kids' Stuff staff are required to wear a face mask and a face shield inside and also outside, if unable to maintain a distance of 2 metres. Other strategies being implemented (e.g. screening, keeping same children and staff together, providing individual materials, increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, and hand washing) all work together to reduce the chance of the spread of illness.

Staff will also be required to wear personal protective equipment in the screening area including gowns, when escorting your child to their classroom, when cleaning and disinfecting blood or bodily fluids and when caring for a sick child or a child showing symptoms of illness.

If you wish for your child to wear a mask, the staff will help your child to understand the proper method to put on/take off a mask to prevent spreading illness. Public Health does not permit children under 2 years of age to wear masks. School age children in **grade 1 and older** will be required to wear a face mask. Parents are required to provide any masks.

Nutrition

Children will continue to be provided with snacks, and lunches from our centre based kitchens. Staff will be responsible for serving all foods and drinks to children, and bowls of food will be kept out of the reach of children on a cart or counter. Parents are required to put all feeding instructions in writing for children under 1 year of age. Please do not send any food from home unless approved by the Program Supervisor, and labelled with your child's name.

Rest Time

Children 0-3.8 years are provided with an opportunity to rest each day. Children who do not sleep, or wake up, are provided with quiet activities. Where cribs and cots cannot be placed 2 metres apart, children will lay down head to foot on their own crib or cot.

Pick-Up

At the end of each day, when you arrive at the centre, call the centre phone number. A staff member will escort your child to the front entrance where you can pick-up. Curbside delivery is also a pick-up procedure that may be used at some locations.

Parental Agreement

Extensive protocols to re-open childcare have been put into place to ensure the health and safety of the children, staff, partners and community during the time of COVID-19.

Following review of the handbook and Kids' Stuff Covid-19 Protocols please sign the Parental agreement and submit to the Program Supervisor at your Kids' Stuff location.