



Covid-19 Update June 9, 2020

Dear BrightPath Families,

We wanted to take a moment prior to formally opening our centres again on Friday June 12th to let you know how excited we are to reconnect with our families, our educators and our children. As we finalize the details to launch our restart journey, we wanted to assure you that the safety of both our children and our team of educators is our top priority. We gained immense understanding of how to implement and maintain safety measures when we reopened for essential services workers, and are very confident of our ability to implement a safe environment for your children. We have worked with and will continue to work very closely with both Local Health Services and Licensing as we open our centres.

We can appreciate the anxiety that you may be facing as we enter yet another change. As such, we wanted to front load you with some expectations prior to your return to the centre. There will be some changes within our practices and routines that are necessary. We wanted to provide you with as much information as we can regarding these changes to ensure your family's restart with us is as fluid and stress free as possible. The following information provides you with a detailed breakdown of these changes. We hope this provides you with not only an update of our enhanced procedures, but also reassures you that we remain focused on the health and safety of both our families and our teams.

Physical Distancing

While we are thrilled to be able to see our families again, we are bound to maintain a level of physical distancing where possible. This begins right at arrival time. Unfortunately, we do need to save our hugs and handshakes for a safer time but will be full of smiles and excited waves! Each educator will aim to connect with our children through eye level, personalized and joyful greetings. We will forge new forms of connecting without physical contact as we continue down this new path.

We will work with our families to plan arrival times as we proceed, but please note that when there is more than one family arriving at the same time, we do need to implement a 2-metre separation. We will aim to provide markings, both inside and outside, to help with this change. This may mean that some families may need to wait outside should a family already be present in the lobby of your centre.

Our classrooms will now have a maximum of 10 individuals, including educators, within them. As such, your child's prior classroom may be changed to meet with these new mandates. Please note that we will be minimizing movement within classrooms to ensure reduced contact with other members within the centre. As our enrollment does increase, we may need to adjust the structure of classrooms accordingly.

We will also not allow any non-essential visitors or tours within our centres at this time.

Arrival

Upon arrival at the centre staff, parents and children will be screened daily for symptoms of ill health and temperature. At this time parents are not allowed to enter the centre, so a staff member will escort your child to and from their classroom. Hand sanitizer will be available at our entrance for you to use. Any evidence of symptoms in yourself, a family member living in the home or your child will eliminate your child's ability to enter the centre, and you will be advised to contact Health Link for further direction.

Classroom

Our classrooms will be re-organized in such a way to allow for multiple, small group interactions. Activities that were traditionally entire group activities, like circle time and mealtimes, will be replaced where possible with multiple, small group activities to enforce physical distancing. Lesson plans and visual cues will be provided to help our children understand what physical distancing looks like. Our educators have also been empowered to program those activities that provide quality learning and engagement while ensuring physical distance.

Materials that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected, such as soft toys and porous materials will be removed from the classrooms. Sensory tables and sensory activities that involve shared mediums will also be removed and replaced with individual experiences. Sleeping mats and cots will be placed further apart and we will practice head to toe placement. In addition, we will space cubbies apart to ensure the 2-metre physical distancing is achieved when placing and retrieving items for your children.

We will not be permitting any items brought in from home at this time including toys, homework and tablets. Show and Share times will involve story telling of memorable experiences! The only exception we can make to this is a comfort item for napping where necessary. These will be stored within a closed bin or bag within each child's cubby.

Outside Activities

Only one classroom will use the outdoor play area or gym at a time. Transitions to outside or to the gym will also be staggered to eliminate any waiting or congestion times. We will have set toys for each group outside or in the gym. Where this is not possible, we will clean and disinfect toys between groups. Community playgrounds will not be used.

Lunch

Family style dining is eliminated at this time. Our educators will serve all meals and snacks and shared platters will not be used. We will limit the number of children per table at mealtimes by leaving an empty space between them.

While these changes are necessary, our educators will still be facilitating engaging conversations throughout our mealtime interactions, with a focus on reflection of the morning learning activities.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will take place throughout the entire day. Regular and frequent handwashing by our staff members will be role-modeled for the children throughout the day. As well, children will be required to wash their hands at multiple times throughout the day, including arrival time, after outside time, between activities, before and after eating, and of course, toileting. Any toys that are mouthed by young children will be removed, cleaned and disinfected before being put back into use.

We may ask you to take bedding home each day to be washed if we are unable to do this at the centre.

We will ask you to bring water bottles home for cleaning each night. We will also sanitize upon arrival each day at centre and they will be stored in a supervised, though accessible.

Symptom Monitoring and Suspected Illness

We will also have a designated room set-up within each of our centres that will be able to safely house a child who should become well while at the centre. If your child becomes symptomatic with any illness throughout the day, we will call you to come and pick up your child. As well, should your child engage in behaviour that is very atypical, we will also contact you.

The following link <https://youtu.be/ixmkIN98l2c> will provide you with details about our procedures.

Finally, we thank our staff who continue to ensure that your children receive the best care possible during these difficult times. We appreciate their dedication, effort and their exceptional commitment and determination to give every child the best start in life!

Warm regards,

Carol Caddoo, RECE
Director of Operations, Ontario