

Messiah's Children Preschool

Precautions to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19

Please read this document carefully, and sign and return the Parent Agreement before the first day of school.

Introduction

We at Messiah's Children Preschool value the safety and wellbeing of you and your child(ren). As we prepare to reopen Messiah for another school year, we are following guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Southwest District Health, and the Nampa School District. Policies and procedures stated in this document enhance and reinforce health and safety measures we adhere to as a licensed preschool.

We do not know how long we will be keeping up some of the new practices, but we will do our best to set children at ease with the changes to their world.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Social Distancing

1. Children will be kept with the same group of children and teachers each class period. Teachers will not move between classes.
2. Classrooms will be used by only one group of children throughout the class period.
3. Common areas (bathrooms, playground) will be used by one group at a time and cleaned between groups.
4. Parents will not enter the preschool unless by appointment.
5. Only Messiah personnel who have a role in daily operations will be allowed in the building during school hours.
6. Staff will wear face coverings and gloves when serving snacks.
7. During snacks, children will be seated in every other chair to provide distance while eating.
8. Children will have their own set of supplies to use the entire school year. There will be no shared supplies.

Drop-off/Pick-up

Drop Off Procedure:

- Please do not leave your vehicle.
- Once you have checked your child in using the Kidcheck app, a staff member will come to your car to pick up your child.
- Your child's temperature will be taken. Please wait until this is finished. If his/her temperature is 100.4 or lower, a teacher's aide will bring him/her into the building for school and you are free to leave.

- Any communication with the teacher at this time can be done through the Remind app.

Pick Up:

- Parents can wait just outside the main Preschool entrance for their child to be dismissed. Please maintain 6 ft social distancing if you wait outside of your vehicle.
- At 11:30 (3 yr. olds) and 12:00 (4 yr. olds), teachers will be ready to dismiss classes at the main Preschool door.
- A teacher or staff member will dismiss your child to you when you are just outside the door.
- Any further communication can be done after all the other children are dismissed.
- Appointments can be made to talk with the teacher after class in the school building.

Diligent Hand Hygiene

1. Children and staff at Messiah wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) are used if soap and water are not readily available. Children will only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
2. Children will be supervised in hand washing
 - a. When they arrive at Messiah before class
 - b. Before and after snack
 - c. After using the bathroom
 - d. After playing outdoors
 - e. After covering a sneeze, blowing nose
3. Staff will wash hands
 - a. When they arrive at Messiah
 - b. Before and after serving food or drinks
 - c. After using the bathroom
 - d. After being outdoors
4. Staff will wear protective gloves when distributing food and washing surfaces.
5. Children will be reminded to, and staff will
 - a. Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands.
 - b. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash hands.

Cleaning and Disinfection

1. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily, including cubbies, toys, tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
2. Use of toys that are more likely to be placed in a child's mouth (play food, dishes, utensils) will be limited. Instruction will be given on how to properly play with these toys. Any item that has been in a child's mouth will be removed and set aside to be washed and sanitized.
3. Toys will be rotated in and out of classrooms daily for washing and sanitizing.
4. Toys, blocks, puzzles, and other classroom materials will not be moved among classrooms unless washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to another.

5. Each class will have its own bin of books. This bin will be removed from the classroom to “sit” for 24 hours. Because there is no good disinfectant for books, an article from the American Libraries Magazine says, “Time is the best disinfectant”.
6. Use of materials that cannot be cleaned and sanitized (i.e. playdough) will be limited to use by one child and clearly labeled with the child’s name.
7. Children will be provided with separate, labeled art materials rather than shared supplies (crayons, markers, etc.).
8. Cloth toys (stuffed animals for reading buddies) and dress-up clothes will be laundered after each class period.
9. Water will be poured into disposable cups during snack time and when a drink is needed. Children and staff will not use drinking fountains.
10. Snack food will be prepackaged, single serving items. Fresh fruit will be divided safely and prepared in the classroom by a teacher wearing gloves.

Sick Child Policy Amendment

The safety and wellbeing of all staff, children, and the families at Messiah continue to be of utmost importance to us. We always commit to taking all precautions toward keeping children and staff safe and healthy, including during the current time of the Covid-19 outbreak. Following this additional sick child policy will help Messiah to do this.

Children will be monitored for signs or symptoms of Covid-19 daily.

Children will be asked to stay home or return home if any of the following applies:

- Have a fever of 100.4 or higher
- Have had a fever of 100.4 or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours.
- Have come in contact with others who have COVID-19. Please contact the school if this is the case.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Children with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to others with COVID-19 will be asked to stay home.
- Children who develop signs/symptoms of COVID-19 while at Messiah will be immediately separated from others and a member of the staff will contact the family member and/or emergency contact to pick the child up.
- Please let us know if your contact information has changed so we can keep your child’s file up to date. This is especially important for all contact and emergency contact information.
- We encourage families to practice frequent hand washing at home.

If an enrolled child or employee tests positive for COVID-19:

- Southwest District Health will be contacted. The school will follow their guidance for next steps.

- Messiah’s Children Preschool will post and notify families of any confirmed staff or child cases of COVID-19.

Returning to preschool after suspected COVID-19 symptoms:

If a staff member or child has symptoms of COVID-19 or is in close contact of someone with COVID-19, they can return to preschool if the following conditions are met:

- If an individual has a fever, cough or shortness of breath and has not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they can return to school no sooner than 72 hours after the fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms get better. If the person’s symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of first symptoms. They may return under the following conditions:
 - If they had a fever: 3 days after the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medication AND there is improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath).
 - If they did not have a fever: 3 days after they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath).

Financial Policy Amendment

Messiah’s Children Preschool will do our best to continue education for your child through all situations. If your child is sick, we will do our best to provide materials for your child.

- If you choose to stay home even though school is offered, we will do our best to provide the lesson materials needed. You are still responsible for tuition unless you withdraw.
- If we are forced to close, due to sickness or a change in government policies, we will still do our best to provide the lesson materials needed. There will be an option for a partial refund. All families will receive notice if this is the case.

Parent Agreement

I, (family member name) _____, parent/guardian of,

_____, have read and agree to the above sick child policy amendment and financial policy amendment.

Family member signature: _____ Date: _____

We thank you for helping us to keep you and your children safe during this time.