

Plans for Reopening Hertz Nursery School

Arrival and Departure Protocols:

- All staff and families will be asked to self-screen at home. Upon arrival we will do a screening (including a daily temperature check) before the child can enter the building.
- Adults must wear masks when dropping off and picking up children. A designated staff member will meet you for your morning screening and you will be asked to sign and date a health screening form each morning.
- After the health screening, a staff member will bring your child into their classroom. At this point, only staff members and children are allowed in the building.
- These new drop off procedure will take more time. Expect delays, and please have patience when arriving to drop off or pick up your child/children.
- Please park in the “For Those Who Need” spaces when you drop off and pick up your child. Stay in your car and a staff member will come over to you.

Health and Safety:

The health and safety of our staff and children are very important to us. Below are some updated measures we are taking for our program.

- All children must be immunized.
- Additional staff training will be provided related to COVID 19, its spread and symptoms, as well as use of PPE, and infection control.
- Increased sanitation protocols will be in effect which will include extra cleaning of high contact surfaces, toys used by the children each day, and outdoor equipment between uses. Soft toys that cannot be sanitized (Dress up clothing and stuffed animals) will be removed.
- If a child or staff person has a fever of 100 degrees F or higher, or other symptoms of COVID, they will not be allowed to enter the building.
- Staff will keep a watchful eye on all the children throughout the day to note any symptoms or fevers that may appear. Parents will be notified and the child MUST be picked up within 45 minutes.
- If a child becomes sick while in the program, the child will be escorted by a familiar staff member to a separate space until a parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. The child must be picked up within 45 minutes of phone call.
- If a child or staff member contracts COVID 19, we will notify families, employees, EEC and the Sharon Board of Health while maintaining confidentiality.

- Handwashing will be increased and supplies will be easily accessible. We will be asking parents of children over 2 for permission to use hand sanitizer with their child, if soap and water are not immediately available.

Masks and Social Distancing

- All staff will be wearing masks whenever social distancing is not possible.
- As per our new EEC regulations, we will encourage mask use for children over age 2 whenever social distancing is not possible. We will not, however force mask use if a child is unwilling or unable.
- Children will not wear masks during rest time or while eating.
- Parents need to send 2 freshly washed and labeled masks that will be kept at school.
- Parents need to send in 3 changes of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear, socks, shoes if possible) which will be kept at school.
- We will be setting up classroom spaces to allow for social distancing between students (making smaller play areas, reducing seats at tables, emphasizing individual play choices).
- We will ensure social distancing with children when they are resting or eating.

Our Program, Classrooms and Spaces

- All classrooms will continue to have the same warm and loving environment that they had in the past. Teachers will greet the children with excitement as they enter the classroom and choose materials to play with. Children will continue to learn through play, questioning, and exploring.
- Communication is very important to us and we strive to keep open communication between classroom teachers and parents. Parents are welcome to schedule a conversation with teachers at any time. Email is also a great way to communicate with your child's teacher. If information needs to be shared once the class is in session, please call the school office.
- Additional indoor square footage has been required per child which means some of our classrooms will have a lowered daily child capacity.
- All soft toys, pillows, dress up clothes and items that cannot be easily disinfected will be removed from all classrooms.
- At this point, children will remain with the same group during the day and will not be combined with other groups. Your child's teachers will stay in the same classroom all day.
- Required teacher/child ratios and group sizes have been altered. Class sizes above 10 children are currently prohibited.

Family Responsibilities:

- Families must prescreen their child and themselves before arrival. If any symptoms are present, please do not bring your child to Hertz and contact a healthcare provider right away.
- Parents must wear masks during all drop off and pick up times.
- Parents must be available to pick up their child within 45 minutes or must identify another adult able to do so if needed.
- Children must have 2 masks and 3 changes of clothes to be kept at school.
- Water bottles MUST be labeled clearly and must be sent in filled and taken home each day to be washed.
- Water bottles will be kept out of a child's reach to avoid cross contamination but children will be encouraged to keep hydrated during the day.