

IMPORTANT SCHOOL REOPENING INFORMATION

We would like to share some important information regarding the opening of school in September. We have developed the Play Groups School Reopening Safety Plan based on guidance from the New York State Department of Health (the "DOH Guidance"), as well as the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics. A few of the key principles include:

- **Class Size** - Class size will be limited to no more than 15 children (excluding teachers). Since our largest class at Play Groups is 15 children, we plan to conduct all classes exactly as they are presently organized – on-site and in-person – beginning in September 2020.
- **Screening at Arrival** - Before entering the school building, all teaching staff and children must first successfully complete a daily health screening, including confirmation of a body temperature of less than 100° F. In addition, the teaching staff will monitor children for the onset of Covid-19 symptoms throughout the school day.
- **Face Coverings** - The DOH Guidance advises that very young children (i.e., those not yet in kindergarten) do not need to wear face coverings when in child care. If you do send your child with a face covering, the staff will do its best to ensure that your child wears it, but we cannot guarantee full compliance if your child is not agreeable. Staff members must wear acceptable face coverings at all times when interacting with children.
- **Physical Distancing** - The DOH Guidance recognizes that strict physical distancing is not possible among very young children and recommends additional precautionary measures including, but not limited to, frequent hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and materials, increased ventilation, and other measures.
- **Minimal Contact Between Classes** - To the greatest extent possible, the teaching staff must ensure that different classes have no or minimal contact with one another and do not share common spaces. The school's dedicated classrooms, two separate playgrounds, and expansive ½-acre Outdoor Classroom (with 12 distinct learning centers) all serve to help us meet this requirement.

The school has devised many new policies and procedures based on these five key principles. They will be communicated to you along with:

- 2020-2021 Parents' Handbok – detailing policies and procedures under normal operating conditions;
- Addendum to the 2020-2021 Parents' Handbook – detailing changes and additions to our policies and procedures that are being implemented in response to the Covid-19 public health emergency; and
- Play Groups School Reopening Safety Plan – prepared on the New York Forward Safety Plan template required by the New York State Department of Health.

All of us at Play Groups are dedicated to making your child's school experience a happy, healthy, and rewarding one! If you should have any questions or concerns before school starts, please feel free to contact me at maddy.friedman@playgroupsschool.com or 631-751-9843.

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