

# Somewhere to “Grow” Montessori Childcare

## Centre Pandemic Plan

*This guide was made to outline the policies and procedures put into place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to protect the health and safety of all employees and children at Somewhere to Grow.*

### *Pandemic Health and Safety Protocols*

- Somewhere to Grow will run at regular hours of 9:00-2:30 Monday to Friday with staff present to perform Pandemic cleaning and disinfecting before and after classes. Cleaning and Disinfection protocols have been put into place and staff have been instructed in these new measures. High traffic areas such as handles, doorknobs will be cleaned more frequently.
- Children and staff will be asked to wash hands upon arrival, after outside time, after toileting, before and after eating, and before leaving the facility. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to wash their hands after drop off and pick up. Parents are asked not to use our facilities at this time. Hand sanitizers are highly recommended.
- Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to enter our classroom or cubby area to limit the exposure to children and staff.
- Temperatures of staff and students will be taken daily and recorded on a sign in sheet. Any person or child with a temperature will not be permitted to come in the center and will be sent home for 14 days or until cleared by a doctor with a note.
- When the children enter the facility each morning parents or guardians will be asked if the child is symptom free and is coming from a symptom free household. Any child that has been given fever reducing medication before coming to school will not be permitted.

- A touch free thermometer will be used on staff and children if suspected of being ill during class time. Any child or staff displaying signs of fever will be sent home and asked to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Attendance records will be kept in our classroom and filled out by the teachers.
- Appropriate signage has been placed at each entry way educating parents on our protocols and procedures at this time.
- After assessing ratios, staff and children will be encouraged to spread themselves across the centre making use of the whole area to promote social distancing.
- Tables are being spaced further apart and chairs are being limited at each table.
- Staff are encouraged to keep 2 meters between themselves and other staff at all times.
- Children will now be required to bring their own snack and water bottles and will be spread apart when eating.
- All sensory/sand/water/playdough experiences are closed until further notice.
- No outside visitors are permitted at this time and tours will be put on hold until further notice.
- Anyone who has travelled or is in contact with someone who has travelled outside of the province must stay home and self -quarantine for 14 days and will not be permitted to attend the centre.
- Anyone who is displaying any symptoms relating to illness (fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose etc.) will be sent home immediately and asked to stay home for a minimum of 14 days in self-quarantine. In the event a person tests negative for Covid-19 and can provide a copy of the negative result to Somewhere to Grow and may be able to return sooner.
- The centre will have an isolation area for any child or staff that falls ill. Pick up of a sick child is expected immediately. The person supervising this area will need to put on a face mask and gloves. This space will be sanitized immediately once the child/staff has been picked up.
- Outside play is encouraged as much as possible at this time. Staff are encouraged to plan routines to support maximum outdoor play.

- Toys and activities are to be switched out and sanitized before next use.
- Staff and families are asked to be mindful about talking about the Pandemic or Covid-19 in a negative or fear induced way.
- Teachers will take opportunities to educate children about proper handwashing techniques, ways to cover coughs or sneezes and keeping their hands to themselves to help prevent the spread of germs. Reminders to keep things out of their mouths and to wash hands frequently.
- Although PPE is not recommended by the Public Health Officer in childcare settings staff will have the option to choose whether or not they wear PPE while at work.

### **Social Distancing in the Childcare Setting**

Children can be separated at mealtimes and at appropriate times by eating or playing at separate tables.

Children will be encouraged to keep their hands to themselves at all times. Children will not be asked directly to play away from each other but will be redirected when possible.

Whenever possible children will be split into smaller groups whenever possible such as: outside play, group games, activity time and circle time.