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COVID-19 POLICY

- If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, we ask you stay home and self-isolate. However, in the event the individual tests negative for COVID-19 and they can provide a copy of the test results to the preschool and they will be permitted back sooner.
- Parents/Caregivers/Staff should conduct daily checks for Respiratory Illness (symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19), before sending their child to preschool and stay home if sick. Protocol to follow when a child or staff develops symptoms of COVID-19 at home or at the preschool is available in Appendix B.
- Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill.
- If a parent, caregiver and/or staff member are unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they should use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. They can contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19.
- Appropriate signage has been placed at the entry windows educating parents on COVID-19 protocols, procedures, and directions at this time.
- All children will eat at the designated snack/lunch times and only food provided by their families. When applicable, children will be spread out as much as possible during snack/lunch time.

Pick up and Drop off

- Every day we will be required to ask if your child has any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease. We will not accept any children if the answer is yes.
- Please stand at a distance (2m) within the gates to ensure physical distancing is maintained at drop-off and pick-up areas.
- If parents/caregivers must enter the facility at pick up or drop off, only one parent/caregiver will be allowed to enter and must follow the safety protocols in place and wear a mask.
- Children/Staff will be required to wash their hands/sanitize immediately upon entering the preschool.

Hygiene

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene
- Do not touch eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds singing the “ABC’s or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”).
- If sinks are not available (e.g., children and staff are outside), supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be considered.
- To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, see BCCDC’s Hand Hygiene poster and a signage for children.
- Hand hygiene stations will be set up at the entrance, so that children can clean their hands when they enter.
- Hand sanitizer will be kept out of children’s reach and supervise its use
- The preschool will always be well-stocked with hand washing supplies including plain soap, clean towels, paper towels, waste bins, and where appropriate, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Children regularly forget about proper hand washing. Staff and children will often practice, and staff will model washing hands properly in a fun and relaxed way.
- Staff will assist young children with hand hygiene as needed.

Staff are required to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:

- When staff arrive at the preschool and prior to leaving
- Before and after handling food
- Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment to a child
- After assisting a child to use the toilet
- After contact with body fluids (e.g. runny nose, spit, vomit, blood)
- After handling garbage
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- After cleaning tasks

Children are required to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:

- When they arrive at the preschool and before they go home
- Before and after eating/drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After sneezing or coughing
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Physical Distancing

- All staff should maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from each other when possible.
- Plan and communicate the work task in advance to ensure that time spent in close proximity is minimized.
- It is not always possible for the staff to maintain physical distance from children, and between children, when in care. The preschool will adhere to the principle of physical distancing where possible, by:
 - Minimizing the frequency of direct physical contact with children
 - Creating separate play areas to space children apart. Note the children who live in the same house do not need to maintain physical distance from each other.

- Organizing snack/meal areas to space children apart
- The preschool will have different expectations based on age and/or developmental readiness
- The preschool will try to reduce the number of children in a group (e.g. set up 2 or 3 areas for craft/coloring)
- The children will not be directly asked to play away from each other or discouraged to play together
- The preschool will have a separate area available for children who have symptoms of illness until they can be picked up and ensure these areas are cleaned and disinfected after the child has left.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Toys that have surfaces that are not easily cleaned (e.g. Plush Toys) are removed from the preschool
- Parents are asked not to send their child to school with any personal items
- General cleaning and disinfecting of common areas will occur at least once a day
- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, faucet handles, tables, chairs, toys) will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day
- Toys and objects that the children have placed in their mouths will be placed in a bin until they are cleaned and disinfected.

Meals and Snacks

- Sharing of food or drinks will not be allowed by staff or children
- Reusable dishware, glasses and utensils will be cleaned and sanitized after each use

Other methods of control risk

- Staff will limit sharing of supplies and equipment (e.g. pens, computer) between each other
- An adequate amount of art supplies will be provided to minimize sharing between children
- All personal items should be labeled with the child's name to prevent accidental sharing
- Children will be outside wherever possible, including play time, snack time, and for learning activities
- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted through books, paper, or other paper-based products, therefore there will be no need to limit the distribution of books or paper-based educational resources to the children.
- The preschool will minimize the number of adults/staff entering the preschool, unless the individual is providing care and/or supporting a child in care (e.g. supportive childcare assistant, ECE practicum student, etc.)

Personal Protective Equipment

- Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not needed in the preschool setting, beyond those used by the staff as part of the regular precautions during regular work hours.
- Wearing a mask is a personal choice. In young children, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.

Outbreak Management

- If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will identify who that person has been in recent close contact and will notify everyone considered to be at risk of infection.
- Staff members at Inspiring Minds Preschool will not be allowed to notify others about any COVID cases unless directed by Fraser Health directly, under personal privacy laws.