

Well, it has been quite a first week! So excited to see new faces and meet new families and have you join our BELC family!! I am also very excited that the kids seem happy and are adjusting well! It is true, sometimes they cry until you are at the corner of Birch Rd and Pine Orchard Rd, but if anything seems to be wrong, we will call!

Covid and the variances are not over, so we must protect our children, our staff., our families and each other!

Together we have been very strong, and I am thankful for the staff and families that have helped us!

I think first of the health and safety of the kids and staff, so I may be playing with a child, or doing a science project so someone will feel more comfortable, instead of posting on Facebook or reading my emails; but I will get back to you as soon as possible. If you need to talk to me immediately, please call the school, 203-488-4512. This is who I am and who we are. The kids all have our hearts already!!

Calendar attached!!

Thank you to All the teachers who have done a remarkable job, teaching, loving, and protecting Y”our” children

We continue to cohort, not mixing teachers or children. I know this may be difficult at drop off or pick up, but we are protecting our lovies! Please call before pickup so we can have your child ready for you! Thank you!

Covid has changed many things for us! We have had to change our hours, limited our classroom sizes and clean even more than even the Bleach Queens of Belc have done before (Reggie , too)

**Our policies are rigid and our greetings in the am are very deliberate because we are trying to keep everyone safe. I will close the door at 9 am when our routine allows us to do so. After that the door will be closed and your child will not be allowed in. I have a hard time saying no to a child, so there will be a late fee for arriving late.**

 **If your child is sick, (2’s we will put masks on all children in their group and separate the child.) We will keep you informed! You will be called and reminded of our 72-hour rule.**

**So far, we have been so lucky, and because we are a family, we trust each other to be honest about where we have been, who has visited us, and if their child is sick. Thank you for your honesty!**

**FLU SHOT REMINDER:** **All children are required to have a flu shot by December 31st**. Please bring in proof of your child’s flu shot as soon as possible. ***Students will not be permitted to return to school in January without proof of flu shots.*** The East Shore District Health Department provides flu shots. Detailed information can be found at [www.esdhd.org](http://www.esdhd.org) or by calling 203-481-4233

**Fees** : All fees this month will be due by the 15th. I am doing the…best I can…thank you for your patience! 😊

BRANFORD EARLY LEARNING is our page on Facebook! I try to up-date as often as I can! The teachers are great taking photos and sending them to me, so you can see your child’s day

* Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Branford-Early-Learning-Center-165964870095958/) and join our online community for an opportunity to see daily photos and commentary on your children and the school happenings. If you have a chance to leave one, a positive [review](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Branford-Early-Learning-Center-165964870095958/reviews/?ref=page_internal) would mean the world! Please give us 5 stars if you think we deserve them! Thank you!

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Great job teachers!! From the babies doing circle time, to the two’s singing songs, to the threes learning to recognize each other’s name, to the 4’s and 5’s doing a common core project, I’m proud to say we have the best, most dedicated teachers … we are so lucky to have them teaching and loving our children!!

If you need anything, please let me know! Thank you!

Once again, thank you for being part of our family… Diane

**FAMILY AGREEMENT AND POLICY enclosed MUST be signed by 9/ 7/ 2021**

Branford Arrival and Departure:

* All adults and siblings (that do not attend BELC and are2+) must wear a mask at all times
* Check in with director or designated person to have temperature taken, sign in and complete a check list for approval of leaving your child for the day; Children will be screened at the entrance to BELC.
* Teacher or designated person will bring child to classroom.
* Families are not permitted to enter the classroom or playground
* Children must be kept with parents at all time while waiting to enter
* Please remember to social distance with anyone else on school property
* Please call the school so we may have your child ready for you or use our doorbell to let us know you are here. a staff will bring you your child and your child’s items ( please know, this may take a few minutes!

Sick Policy Changes:

* Temperature is lowered to 100 Degrees F
* Child must be out fever free (lower than 100 degrees) for 3 full days without fever reducing medication

Quarantine Policy:

* If the director feels the need to quarantine a classroom due to COVID-19 all children, siblings and staff will need to be out of the center for a total of 14 days and not returning until symptom free after the 14 days.
* If we quarantine a classroom tuition will not be collected during the quarantine period.
* If the director requires a COVID-19 test be done written test results must be given to the director for your child to return

Tuition Policy:

* Tuition will continue to be collected monthly
* If at any time the director quarantines a classroom your child is in, you will not be required to pay tuition for the 14-day quarantine.
* If your child is out sick for any other reason- tuition is still expected to be paid weekly

Extra activities:

* During the COVID-19 crisis all extra activities at the BELC are canceled.
* Classrooms are not permitted to go for walks
* Classrooms are not permitted to use any outside area besides our playground children will be in separate areas outside.

**FAMILY AGREEMENT**

In order to remain proactive and safe, we have established new policies, and require certain procedures and behaviors from the families that will be incorporated into Branford Early Learning Center, Inc. protocol starting September 7. I will follow all state and East Shore Health Department rules (and all changes due to state or local authority).  Please read each item below, we will sign at drop off on Tuesday.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wish to begin attending the BELC effective September 7, 2021. Paper must be signed for your child to attend

 The following list is true for my family:

* I have read the new center policies and the CDC guidance definition (see for clear guidance)
* I will wear a mask, wait my turn to have my child properly screened, and practice proper social distancing while on school premises, or I may not be allowed in.
* I will not bring unnecessary items into the centers. This includes the storing of car seats and strollers
* I will bring my child by 9 am daily (this is to ensure we have staffing for daily health checks) children will not be allowed in after 9 am. I understand that a late fee of $5.00 for every minute late, will be charged if late, and after 3 late notices, your child will be placed on a one-day leave.
* I will maintain a distance of 6 feet between families( only one family allowed in at a time)
* I will call ahead of picking up so my child will be ready, to reduce contact with other families and staff members children will be met at the door
* If I bring my child, it is because everyone in our home is healthy and symptom free, with no known exposure to COVID19. If I or anyone in my family is quarantined , my child is in quarantine also. I will notify the director immediately for exposure or testing.
* I will wait for my child to be screened for signs of illness daily ( child will be sent home, not to return for 72 hours if he/she has fever for any reason)
* Fever reducers will not be given to my child on any day of attendance, regardless of reason for fever reducer
* If my child shows signs of illness during care, I, or an authorized representative, will retrieve my child within 30 minutes or sooner whenever possible
* I will thoroughly wash my and my child’s hands before drop- off, prior to picking up, and as soon as we return home
* I will not bring extra people onto school premises when dropping off or picking up
* I will follow new stricter guidelines for cubby contents-two changes of clothing, one sheet, and I will not allow my child to bring items from home onto school premises.
* Infant bottles must be lidded and labeled, will still go home daily for sanitizing and refilling. No water bottles will be allowed from home
* I understand this situation is fluid and subject to state and local authority revision
* I understand failure to follow these new safety guidelines may result in termination
* I understand that having my child attend the BELC is my choice and at any time I can not and will not hold the Branford Early Learning Center, Inc., The Director, the Teacher’s, or the Board of Directors liable for any sickness incurred.

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 Parent/guardian signature