



## Site Plan for the Prevention of Covid-19 into Through the Years Day Care & Community Centre

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*This plan for reopening rests on a set of principles including the:*

- *safety, physical and mental health of staff, children and families*
- *ability of children to benefit from quality early childhood education*
- *seamless transition for children and families, and child care*
- *based on what is feasible and reasonable in each setting*

### **Monitoring for Symptoms for staff, children and essential visitors**

- Families have been provided the 811 health screening tool (Appendix 1) by email, hard copy, and on our Centre Facebook page. The tool is also posted at drop off location. Families are informed verbally at initial intake call, via email and by receiving a copy of the Centre's Covid-19 Plan that their child(ren) must be screened each morning at home.
- We recognize how important it is for families to have that daily connection with the classroom educators and feel at this time we can safely allow parents into the Centre to drop off and pick up their child(ren), under the following guidelines:
  - You adhere to your family's designated drop off and pick up time as closely as possible.
  - You health screen yourself too and if you answer any questions "NO" on the health screen tool you do not enter the building. Buzz in and we will come get your child from you in the vestibule.
  - You make drop off and pick up as brief as possible.
  - You sanitize your hands before entering the pin code in the door release and opening the door.
  - You wear a mask when in the building (we will have a supply in the vestibule in case you forget it) Please do not take your mask off to talk to staff at any time.
  - You ensure only one family member comes in the building to pick up your child(ren). Siblings who do not attend the day care are permitted to accompany you but if they are over 2 years of age we ask you to sanitize their hands and put a mask on them as well.
  - You ensure, whenever possible, to social distance (at least 6 feet apart) from other families.
  - When dropping off or picking up your children at the door of his/her classroom please do not enter the classroom. In the morning indicate to the staff your child(ren) has arrived and that their health check was done and were all "no's". In the afternoon open the door and get a staff's attention and they will bring your child to you at the door. The only exception to this is some infant parents need to enter the room to give or pick up supplies and exchange information with the educators. In this case we ask infant room families to knock on the door of the infant room, give the staff a moment to put on a mask and open the door for you.
  - We have set a limit of 5 families as the maximum number that can be allowed in the building at any one time and be able to safely social distance. This should allow for some overlap as times



are spaced only 3-minutes apart. We will monitor this for a couple weeks and if we find there are times when we are exceeding the 5 families at any one time, we may have to institute a number system.

- All staff will self-monitor daily for symptoms of Covid-19 at home using the 811 screening tool. Facilities will keep records of all staff absenteeism, noting date, symptoms, and details of their 811 assessment. Staff will arrive ten minutes before their shift. All staff will enter the building through the side door by the court space. Upon entering the building they will wash their hands in the staff washroom just inside that door. Staff will then proceed to the staff room where they will sign in with name, date, time and confirm they have completed the 811 health screen tool and have answered "no" to all items. Staff will be kept up to date via email and hard copy the most updated list of signs and symptoms. Staff who has an elevated temperature or any new or worsening symptoms on the screening tool must stay home and complete the 811 assessment. Staff will call in to report sickness and the results of the 811 assessment.
- Visitors to the Centre must press buzzer inside the front door and wait for a greeter. Deliveries will be left outside the door, with the exception of food deliveries which will be taken to the kitchen storage room and placed in the storage room. Only essential visitors (i.e. food delivery, maintenance personnel, licensing officers, public health officers and specialists working with children with identified needs) will be allowed into the Centre and will be asked to complete the 811 health screening tool and sign off that they have no symptoms consistent with Covid-19 and are not required to isolate. The tool is posted in the vestibule. A visitors log will be kept with the visitors name and contact information, date, time, and confirmation that they completed the screening tool. Any visitor coming into the Centre will be asked to sanitize their hands immediately and wear a mask while inside the building.
- **Musical Minds with Megan has been suspended as of the week of April 26, 2021. This will resume in September if Covid-19 protocols allow.**

## **Presentation of Symptoms of Covid-19 While in a Child Care Setting**

- There will always be an extra staff person (Director or Director Designate) available over and above required ratio to supervise an unwell child if needed, in a separate room with the door closed and the windows open. The Director, or DD, will put on a medical mask (see Appendix 2) and medical gloves and, where possible, physical distance from the unwell child. The Director or DD will assess the child for symptoms consistent with possible Covid-19 infection. If the child is exhibiting symptoms identified on the 811 screening tool the family will be notified and asked to promptly pick up their child and contact 811 for assessment. The child will be encouraged to cough or sneeze into sleeve or tissue and used tissues will be disposed of immediately. Child and staff will perform frequent and careful hand hygiene. All bedding, toys and other items used by the child will be cleaned and disinfected after the child has left. Garbage vestibules will be changed as well. When a child is sent home exhibiting symptoms on the 811 screening tool, the siblings of that child must also go home.
- If a staff develops any new or worsening symptoms over the course of their work day they will immediately wash their hands, tell the Director or Director Designate, avoid contact with other staff and children and go home to isolate. Staff with symptoms will be required to call 811 for an assessment to determine if they



need to be tested for Covid-19. If 811 deems they don't have to be tested, return to work once symptoms clear. If staff directed by 811 to get tested they must remain self isolated at home until getting results. If test is negative for Covid-19 they can return to work. If a staff has a positive test, staff will be followed by Public Health. Public Health will let staff know when they are able to return to work. If a staff develops symptoms identified in the 811 screening tool and is required to stay home, or go home if at work, their child(ren) must go home as well.

- **All staff, families, school age children and essential visitors are required to wear a non medical mask within the centre, except when eating and drinking.** Hands should be cleaned before and after putting on and taking off masks. The person wearing a non medical mask will be discouraged from touching the mask once you have put it on. Removed masks should be stored in a ziplock bag and laundered in hot water between uses by user.
- A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies will not be an absolute requirement for exclusion unless symptoms present so acute that the child cannot comfortably cope with the rigours of the day at the Centre. If this is determined the case the family will be contacted to pick up the child, and our usual illness exclusion policy will be required to be followed, i.e. to be 24 hours free of acute symptoms and able to comfortably cope with the rigours of the day here.
- If 811 deems it necessary for a child or staff to be tested for Covid-19 the family or staff must inform a negative test result to the Director before returning to day care.
- In the event that a case of Covid-19 is confirmed to be connected to Through the Years Day Care & Community Centre, Public Health will provide directives including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. One (1) confirmed case in a child care setting is considered an outbreak. We commit to working with Public Health to ensure a prompt response to case(s).

## Public Health Measures

### *Physical Distancing*

We understand that physical distancing is an effective way to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and this is done by physical distancing and the use of physical barriers. Public Health recognizes that physical distancing within child care settings is not always practical or possible. Our priority will be to physical distance between cohorts whenever possible. A cohort is defined as a group of children and its educators. The following are the measures and procedures to promote physical distancing.

- We have Public Health approved physical distancing posters visible at entrances and exits.
- We have visual supports on the walkway outside to enforce physical distancing in the event of line ups.
- We ensure, whenever possible, to arrange sleeping cots so there is a 2 metre/6 foot separation between children's heads at nap time. Where space allows we space cots out the 2 metres, where it doesn't we use a



head-to-toe arrangement or use a physical barrier if it is safe to do so.

- We have solid outdoor panel siding attached to the chain link fence to create a barrier between outdoor play spaces.
- We have communicated both by phone call, email and by sharing our Covid site plan that every family will be assigned a designated drop off and pick up time to ensure physical distancing.
- There is a sign on the door asking visitors to STOP and press the buzzer in the vestibule to be greeted.
- We have a schedule in place where staff breaks and lunches will be staggered to ensure where possible staff will physical distance.
- We have set up our indoor and outdoor environments to encourage physical distancing wherever possible. Examples: children will sit on poly dots that are placed 2 metres apart for group circles and cooperative games; multiple individual bins of toys or sensory materials spaced apart; interest areas like blowing bubbles or painting set up in corners of playground for individual children; an individual plastic tote for each child containing their writing/colouring materials, scissors, rulers, and clay/playdough (older groups).

### ***Cohort/Grouping***

- As enrolment increased within cohorts it became more and more difficult to keep each cohort apart. Staff working incredibly long days to ensure this is not sustainable long term. It is recognized there will be times that cohorts will need to combine, at the beginning and end of each day, and possibly other times. We are committed to keeping the under five cohorts from mixing with the school age cohorts though at all times.
- We have a plan in place that both inside and outside each cohort will remain at least 2 metres apart for the most part. Examples: each cohort is using a different hallway for their cubbies; every cohort has its own set of bathrooms; during fire drills cohorts will stay apart at the muster point. Trips to the cubbies will be limited as much as possible.
- We have a staff schedule that has the same staff with the same cohort each day whenever possible. The only exceptions to this will be the Director/Director Designate and subs will have to interact amongst different cohorts.
- A supply of materials like extra clothing, shoes, hats, sunscreen, garbage bags, Kleenex, paper towel is kept in every classroom and replenished often to minimize the need for interaction each day.
- We have designed a daily attendance record that records names of staff and children in each group each day. Any absences are noted in the classroom communication books and on one main Centre's absenteeism record.
- We recognize that outside is the best place to be in our efforts to keep all healthy. We will have walks, access to natural trails and non play structure public parks and will ensure physical distancing and the staff/cohort can be maintained.



### ***Hygiene Practices***

- We have procured hand washing supplies and hand sanitizer and have a built up supply of them.
- Everyone within the day care will be washing their hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. Hand washing posters are visible at sinks have been prepared for each developmental age group that teach fun and creative ways to measure the 20 seconds.
- Where soap and water is not available and if hands are not visibly soiled, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a minimum alcohol concentration of 60% will be used. It will be kept out of reach of children and not used on children that frequently put their hands in their mouth. When a child uses it an educator will squirt a small amount in the child's hand and they will be encouraged to rub it all in and allow to dry. Hand sanitizer receptacles are stationed inside the front door and in hall. Travel size hand sanitizer will be packed in all outing backpacks that travel with the cohort on walks or to the outdoor play spaces. If hands are soiled and there is no access to soap and water hands will be wiped clean with a one use paper towel and then alcohol-based sanitizer is used. There will be a handwashing system built and set up in the woods behind the Centre where cohorts spend a significant amount of time.
- All staff, children and visitors that enter the building will be asked to immediately wash their hands. All staff and children will immediately wash their hands upon returning from outside, before and after eating and handling food, after using the washroom, after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose and after handling pets. There may be other times throughout the day children and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands. Handwashing schedules are posted and signed off on when completed in handwashing areas. We are no longer recording the incidences of each handwash for staff and children.
- Staff will wear a new set of gloves when changing a child's diaper or soiled clothing. The regular procedure for changing a diaper, or toileting a child as outlined in our Guidelines for the Prevention of Communicable Diseases will be followed.
- Children will be encouraged to practice cough etiquette by coughing and sneezing into their sleeve or a tissue and discarding it immediately. We have signage in washrooms, near food prep areas and entrances to encourage hand hygiene and proper cough etiquette. We have social stories to share with the children on how we can keep each other healthy and safe through good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette. We have established in each room a hand washing schedule that outlines the frequency of hand washing. It is posted on the washroom wall. This will be the bare minimum standard, and we will be encouraging additional hand washing whenever necessary.

### ***Environmental Cleaning***

- We have replaced our everyday disinfectant to ENVIRO Solutions ES256H General Disinfectant Concentrate. We have installed a wall mounted dispenser that precisely mixes the solution to the proper ratio. This solution does not have to be disposed of daily. This solution is always rinsed off with water after being used on toys.
- Carpets will be brought back into the classrooms. They will be disinfected each night with Quat Plus Spray,



allowed to sit for a minimum of 10 minutes and then vacuumed. Curtains and soft material on rocking chairs will also be disinfected with Quat Plus spray each night. Pillows will be brought back into the room if they have a removable pillow case, as it will need to be laundered daily in hot water. Dress up clothes will be brought back into the classroom and rotated daily (three days out of the room before reusing), or washed daily in hot water if they are to be kept in room.

- Outdoor sandboxes will be reopened. Whenever possible we will limit the toddler sandbox to two children at a time, and the preschool/school age sandbox to four at a time. Sandboxes are covered over at the end of the day and checked each morning before use for inorganic material. Sandbox toys will be cleaned once a week on Wednesdays.
- Certainty or Chlorox Disinfectant Wipes will be used when the mist of a spray is not safe., ie in close proximity of children.
- For easy reference the following cleaners are used by Jan Pro Cleaning company every evening.
  - Azure- Glass Cleaner
  - Emerald- Degreaser
  - Excelsior- Hard Floor Cleaner
  - Film-away- Salt and Ice Melt Remover
  - Polar- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
  - Quat Plus- DisinfectantAll Safety Data sheets for proper use for these chemicals are kept in a binder in the classroom along with any other hazardous materials that are used in the Centre that may include, but are not limited to, Mr. Clean cleaner, laundry soap, bleach.
- Staff will do daily environmental cleaning and disinfection throughout the day following the charts posted in their classrooms. We will use a two step procedure to clean and disinfect. First a cleaner will be used to clean visible dirt and then a disinfectant will be used. All toys/material in every classroom are cleaned and disinfected once per day. More frequent (twice daily or more often as needed) cleaning and disinfection will be done to high touch surfaces such as door knobs, bathrooms, railings, phones, tables, chairs, light switches. Records of these cleaning schedules and records are posted both indoors and outdoors.
- We have ensured that toys that are easily cleaned have been made available. We have several bins of toys and materials to replace those items removed for disinfecting. Individual bins of the same item or sensory items will be used and sanitized after use.
- Additional environmental cleaning will take place if a child or staff has been identified to be symptomatic. Focus will be on high-touch areas and areas where that particular staff or child spent time.
- We have staff scheduled over and above the regulated ratio in each cohort to ensure cleaning and sanitizing gets done and recorded.
- Waste will be disposed of every evening by cleaners. No touch waste receptacles are used where possible.
- Every child has his/her own sleeping cot. Staff will keep beds, bedding and comfort items separated by



placing blankets and comfort item on each child's bed. Then stacking the cots will allow a gap between each cot due to the feet of each cot. Beds will be disinfected once a week on the classroom's designated day to wash all bedding and comfort items.

### ***Laundry***

- There will be a regular laundry schedule in every classroom and kitchen. There are separate baskets for dirty and clean laundry, clearly marked. Dirty laundry bins will be cleaned and disinfected daily. All laundry is washed in hot water. Staff will wash their hands after handling dirty laundry.
- All soiled blankets, clothing, cloth diapers belonging to a child will be bagged, tightly closed, and sent home with the family for laundering. Soiled laundry will not be shook so as to not disperse possible virus through the air.
- Staff and children have extra clothing readily available to change if necessary.

### ***Other Considerations***

- Families have been told via intake interview, email and by signage in the entrance that items from home are limited to essential items and are not to be shared. Breakfast may be brought in, school age children may bring in a lunch, and diapers, wipes and bottles are permitted in. Ideally we ask that a duplicate comfort item be kept here at day care but if that is not possible please pack the comfort item in a Ziplock bag to bring to day care.
- Every classroom has several windows and whenever possible windows will be open to ensure air flow throughout the rooms. Our air exchanger is running on "high" at all times and was serviced and cleaned in February 2020. Filters will be checked and replaced often in the HVAC system.
- We have ensured that appropriate actions have taken place to flush the water system, and we have performed a full chemical test as well as a bacterial test one week prior to the reopen date of June 15, 2020 and another bacterial test on November 20, 2020 to ensure water is safe to drink.
- We have established a meal time plan to avoid the sharing of food and limit the people that come in contact with meal during food preparation and service. The cook will prepare and deliver snacks and meals to the door of the rooms when possible. Staff will whenever possible not go into the kitchen. One staff member from each cohort will be the designated staff to prepare the children's plates on the counter and then deliver it to the tables of children and educators. That same staff will pour out beverages and refill as needed. There will be no sharing of items like salad dressing, or ketchup bottles. The server must handle all those items. We will physical distancing during meal and snack times by having physical markers on tables for children to sit at.
- We will suspend all group cooking activities and children self serving of food.
- Additional School Age Considerations:



- If a Through the Years staff member has to board a school bus to aid a child under 40 lbs. buckle or unbuckle a seatbelt or aid a child using a wheelchair to board or dismount the bus using a lift they will wear a mask and gloves.
- **Children arriving here for before and/or after school care are required to wear a mask.**

### *Children's Mental Health*

- While recognizing the importance of ensuring the physical safety of children we will not forget the importance of the children's overall emotional well being. We will strive to help the children feel safe, secure and supported. We believe children that are strong in their social and emotional well being will be able to age appropriately self identify feelings of sickness. We will ensure our teaching helps children take increasing more responsibility for their own health and physical well being as they grow. This will develop knowledgeable and confident self identities.
- In an effort to teach personal and social responsibility we will help children learn how to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect. In relation to Covid-19 children can learn the things they can do for others to keep them safe. We will stress this in a positive way showing children that keeping others safe is a very important way we can show each other we care about them. This will help children develop a sense of belonging to groups and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.

### **FINAL NOTE:**

**IF WE DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE STAFF TO SUPPORT THESE MEASURES PARENTS SHOULD BE AWARE WE MAY HAVE TO CLOSE OR TAKE LESS CHILDREN.**