

Adventure Island Childcare
4355 Okano Place
Victoria BC
V8N5G7
info@adventureislandchildcare.com
2508571217
www.adventureislandchildcare.com

July 24, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: COVID 19 Policy

Effective date: **September 1, 2020**

This new Policy will be added as an amendment to the Adventure Island Childcare Parent Handbook/Contract. Please read all parts of the COVID 19 Policy, and if you agree to all terms and conditions then please sign and date below.

This Policy is being implemented at AIC due to the COVID 19 virus that has been a global pandemic since March 2020. AIC is taking this situation very seriously, and has been closed for the last 5 months. I am approaching the end of my maternity leave and have been extremely conflicted about how to move forward. After much thought and discussion, I have decided that with the right adjustments, I would like to re-open Adventure Island and return to work with my daughter Myra.

There will be a number of changes to the physical set-up of the classroom, as well as revisions in the Parent Handbook/Contract in regards to the operation of AIC. These adjustments, along with implementing this COVID 19 Policy, have now allowed me to feel confident that I can continue providing high quality care to the community in a safe way during this challenging time and into an unknown future. I am now a mum myself, so these changes also reflect how I can create a healthy work/life balance and a schedule that works for my family. Some of these new and more restrictive policies will end when the pandemic is declared over, while some will be permanent changes.

New cases are continuing to rise in BC, with some being reported on the island. It is important that new families of Adventure Island share with me the same view about how to handle this pandemic. I have taken it very seriously and have kept our bubble extremely small and have not travelled off the island. It is vital that we all agree to maintaining a few key steps to contribute to prevention, such as small social circles, diligence in traveling, practice social distancing, healthy hand washing practices, open and clear communication, and have back up care in place for times of illness.

We are taking VIHA and Government recommended steps to be prepared in our prevention methods. Here are the following links to refer to for more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-response-covid-19/child-care-response-covid-19-provider/child-care-response-covid-19-health-safety>

http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools?fbclid=IwAR3m6qinf21adpzEfGtyCLhxTFv5bz5TKMcYI_5BqWmv_Qhmmpe1LiCUECw

Adventure Island Childcare will be following all safety measures set out by the Provincial Medical Health Officers. If your immediate family/household are not following directives from our public health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, your child will unfortunately not be able to attend AIC.

All requirements in the policies below also apply to the care provider and their own household/family/child.

This policy is subject to change as the situation with the virus evolves and how/where it is spreading changes. In the current state as of July 2020, Adventure Island Childcare will be implementing the following COVID 19 Policies beginning September 1st 2020:

Days and Hours of Operation

AIC will be open Monday to Friday from 8am to 430pm. There will be an extended pick up window until 5pm for those who need it, however this daily 30 minute time slot at the end of the day will be dedicated to the cleaning and sanitizing of the classroom, and your child would be set up with quiet activities. AIC will begin its re-opening with a smaller enrolment, to allow for a lower ratio and more space per child in the classroom.

Drop Off/Pick up

To maintain social distancing and to prevent unnecessary contact or exposure, parents are required to drop off/pick up at the door only. Only one parent will be permitted to drop off/pick up at a time. If another child is being dropped off/pick up you are required to wait outside, maintaining 2 meters distance. There will be tape indication markers. Parents are required to assess their children daily for symptoms before sending them to daycare. The care provider will meet you at the door to transition your child in/out of the classroom and will be the one to sign them in/out on the sheet. Communication around health status at time of drop off and pick up will be required. Children will be asked to use the hand sanitizer station outside before entry, and will wash their hands before they begin playing. Children are asked to wash their hands and use the hand sanitizer once they have left. Please only bring necessary supplies for the centre to stay, along with daily items like backpack and lunch that will be sent home daily. No other items from home are permitted.

It is requested that parents text the care provider when they are on their way for pick up. This will allow the care provider to begin getting the child/ren ready for home. Please either text or knock to alert the care provider you have arrived and they will meet you at the door.

Exceptions to this Policy include the adjustment period when a child first enrolls at AIC. Flexibility and consideration will be made to allow parents inside to help transition their child to a new place. Should this situation arise, we ask that the parent limits the time frame for this, and also takes their shoes off at the front door, uses the hand sanitizing station, washes their hands and maintains social distancing within the centre.

There will be no visitors, siblings, or extended family members allowed in the centre at this time.

Daily social distancing

With the ages of children that AIC cares for, it will be difficult to ensure 2 meters distance is maintained at all times. Deterring unnecessary contact will be the main focus. AIC will use the classrooms to encourage healthy spaces around children playing. Despite best efforts, children will be in close contact with others.

It is requested that families registered at Adventure Island Childcare maintain social distancing when out as per provincial requirements, wear masks when appropriate, limit travel, and keep a small social bubble outside of the centre. This will help keep everyone healthy and safe and will assist in preventing any unnecessary exposure and spread of illness among our group.

Hand washing

Children are required to wash hands each time upon entering the classroom. Frequent hand washing will be required throughout the day, especially after visiting any playgrounds, and before eating. If a sink is not available, supervised use of alcohol based hand sanitizer will be used. Children are encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbow and to not put toys in their mouths. Please encourage and practice this at home with your child.

Cleaning

In addition to the regular daily cleaning, the COVID 19 prevention cleaning/sanitizing will be done on frequently touched surfaces, floors, toys and sensory materials throughout the day and at the end of each day. Toys have been reduced, and bringing toys from home is prohibited. Best efforts will be made to wipe down playground equipment upon arrival.

Children's Supplies

Each child's supplies will be individually stored. Each child will have their own basket of arts and crafts supplies. Napping items will be washed frequently and the diaper change station will be sanitized after each use.

Adventures out/special occasions

AIC will not be using the van for our weekly outings at this time. Limiting unnecessary exposure is vital, and so instead we will be using the backyard daily along with walks to our small local playground called Bisley Park. As we move through the Fall and Winter seasons with COVID 19, this policy will be revisited. At this time, there will also be no gatherings at the centre for special occasions such as our annual Halloween Party, our Christmas event, or birthday parties. There will be no outside food or drink allowed within the centre for sharing purposes. Children will not be able to share items from their lunch kits and there will be no extra snacks/baking provided by the centre.

Children and Families illness Policy and Return to Care

Please note, the original Illness Policy and Disease Outbreak Emergency Plan written in Adventure Island Childcare's Parent Handbook/Contract still applies. This is in addition to that policy.

Children showing any signs of illness (cough, fever, fatigue, chills, sore throat, vomiting, runny/mucus from nose, headache, shortness of breath, GI symptoms, skin changes/lesions/rashes) will unfortunately not be allowed to attend AIC. Children whose symptoms are present while at AIC will be sent home and required to be picked up immediately. Please make sure there are contacts of back up care in place in your child/ren's files at AIC. Each child's illness will be assessed on a case by case basis, dependent on severity, number, combination and frequency/duration of symptoms. Children will not be able to return to school until they are clear from all symptoms for at least 48 hours. A doctors note or negative COVID 19 test result may be required. If your child or anyone in your household is showing any signs of COVID 19, they are required to notify AIC and stay home, and use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 811 or the local public health unit for directions.

If there is an illness within the household, please use precautionary measures and refrain from bringing your child due to the risk of exposure to the other children and families.

Children with a common cold or influenza will be required to stay home for 48 hours symptom and medication free. There will be no administration of medication by the care provider at AIC at this time.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 in your household, you must immediately notify Adventure Island Childcare. Your child will be able to return to AIC once they have isolated for 14 days after the person is symptom free.

If your child/ren or a member of your household comes into contact with another person who tests positive for the virus, your child/ren will need to self isolate for 14 days and be symptom free to return to care.

Please also see Traveling below for more information.

It is up to the responsibility of the parent to communicate with the care provider about all matters related to any illness'.

It is required that each child have back up care in place should there be an illness and the child is not able to attend AIC.

Care Provider Illness Policy (and their own child)

The above Children's Illness Policy also applies to the care provider and their own child who attends AIC. The care provider will call on their substitute teacher for coverage should they themselves or their child fall ill and they cannot work. If the sub teacher is not available, the centre will close until a care provider can return to work. The care provider will always notify the families of any illness, changes in who is providing care, or potential temporary closures.

Fees

Unfortunately, there will be no refunds for any days a child has missed due to illness, or for any self isolating/quarantine days due to illness or travel. There will also be no refunds for any closures should the care provider not be able to work due to personal/family illness and the substitute teacher is not available.

In the event of a mandated closure or due to a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak within the centre (up to 14 days), fees are due and payable as per usual operations. Fees payable during closures exceeding 14 days will be determined on a case by case basis.

Travelling

Any traveling off Vancouver Island must be communicated to Adventure Island Childcare and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Children's health will be monitored very closely after a return from traveling.

The BC Government is advising against all non-essential travel outside of Canada including the United States. If any member of your household or your child travel outside of Canada, your child is required to self isolate for 14-days upon return to Canada.

If any member of your household or your child travel to any cities or provinces with areas of high counts/outbreaks of the virus (please check for updated list via credible source) your child/ren will be required to self isolate for 14 days. If any member of your household or your child travel anywhere within Canada by airplane or ferry, you are required to self isolate for 14 days.

If any member of your household or your child are traveling anywhere else at this time, we ask that you pay very close attention to your children's health. If your child or any member of your household is exhibiting signs of the virus after travelling, you are required to notify AIC immediately, and refer to the Illness Policy above.

If your child or a member of your household has travelled recently, and your child/ren begin to exhibit symptoms of the virus, it will be required that your child be picked up immediately and cannot return until symptom free for 14 days or provide a negative COVID 19 test result.

Notification/Records

AIC will confirm and record/document daily in the communication book if children have symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID19, or other respiratory diseases and will notify parents immediately. Adventure Island Childcare will notify parents and Licensing at VIHA of any case or outbreak of COVID 19 in the centre. It is required that parents notify AIC immediately of any traveling off the island, illness, or COVID 19 testing within their household. If there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 in your household, you must immediately notify Adventure Island Childcare. Privacy and confidentiality will always be maintained.

Symptoms to watch for

At this time, the following are confirmed symptoms of COVID 19: cough, fever, fatigue, chills, body aches and pains, sore throat, vomiting, runny/mucus from nose, headache, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, GI symptoms such as abdominal pain and diarrhea, skin changes/lesions/rashes, loss of taste or smell. More symptoms may be added to this list.

Testing

If your child or any member of your household are displaying any symptoms and suspects they may have COVID 19, please notify AIC immediately and seek medical attention with a COVID 19 test. Please inform AIC of results.

Withdrawal

Any withdrawal due to COVID 19 must adhere to the original Withdrawal policy as stated in the Handbook/Contract.

Closure

Adventure Island Childcare will only temporarily close if there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 at the centre, or if we are mandated to close by the Government/VIHA. This will be reassessed every 14 days.

Liability

In choosing to have your child attend Adventure Island Childcare, you are accepting the risk of exposing your child to both the other children in my care as well as anyone they or their family members have been in contact with, along with members of my family. Given children's natural curiosity which governs their ability to learn and discover the world around them, it is impossible to guarantee that there will be no contact between them. In choosing to have your child attend a child care setting, you are accepting the risk of increasing both your child's and your family's exposure to any communicable outbreak. Adventure Island Childcare will do all it can to prevent the spread of COVID 19 within the classroom, and removes itself from all liability in the chance your child contracts COVID 19 while at AIC, along with the risks associated with having your child/ren in the child care setting and contracting COVID 19.

Parents who are or have children who are considered to be more vulnerable, are encouraged to consult with their health care providers in order to determine if their child should attend child care if they are uncertain.

This COVID 19 Policy will continually be updated as the Vancouver Island Health Authority provides guidance.

Adventure Island Childcare will be required to enforce the policies above if needed. We thank you in advance for all of your cooperation and understanding through this difficult time. If we can all adhere to these terms and conditions, I feel confident that we can create a wonderful environment for the children to grow and thrive in over this next year, while keeping everyone healthy and safe.

I, _____ agree to the terms and conditions stated above.

Signature

Date

Name of child/ren registered at Adventure Island Childcare _____