



3041 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE

Spuyten Duyvil

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Dear Families:

As we prepare for our scheduled opening in September, we understand the decision of sending your child out into the world is a difficult one. We do not take for granted your trust in us to do our best to keep your children and our staff safe during these unprecedented times. These are some of the steps you can expect from the school to ensure everyone's safety. We are then listing the expectations for families participating in our nursery and preschool program this year. An equal commitment from our families is necessary as well; that list of expectations is included below as well.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

As stated in previous communications, we will continue to follow all CDC, Dept of Early Childhood and NYC and NYS Dept of Health guidelines and requirements for reopening this fall, including, but not limited, to the following -

- Face masks will be worn by all staff members when they are with children, families, visitors and other staff members *without exception*.
- Staff members will keep 6 feet of physical distance from families, very limited number of visitors on site and other staff members as much as possible.
- Children will still sit in large circles for group meetings but furniture will be re-arranged to allow for more open floor area; our varied outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible for expanded instructional space.
- Daily health checks, including temperature checks, will be conducted on children, staff members and official visitors upon entering the facility-with a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual will be denied entry to the school.
- Children will not mix with other classes, i.e. during outdoor time, extra activities, early drop-off or late pick-up. This is called *stagnant and stable* grouping
- Regular cleaning of manipulatives and common spaces will occur throughout the day, including a mopping and wipe down of all bathrooms midday (outside of regular bathroom clean-up as needed), and the usual heavy school cleaning at the end of each day. Staff will continue the usual practice of spraying surface areas frequently with a bleach/water mixture.
- Covid-19 testing of all staff members is required 2 weeks before returning to school and will be repeated during the school year.
- Frequent hand washing will take place by staff members and children including upon arrival, after restroom use, before all meals and snacks and when changing activities; sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the school. These supplies have already been ordered.

Classrooms will be ventilated as much as possible including keeping fans running as needed, lowering the thermostat in the winter and opening windows and doors completely when children are not in the rooms.

- -Stacking closed plastic bins will be used in place of open cubbies.
- Classroom arrivals and dismissals are being staggered 10 minutes apart to limit number of people congregating on our sidewalk and lined up at the gate.

As more clarification comes to us from our governing agencies we will make whatever adjustments are necessary and inform you as well. There will also undoubtedly be details and unforeseen situations that need our attention once we open and we will deal with them with the same commitment to safety and quality age-appropriate preschool practices.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF OUR FAMILIES

While the staff at Spuyten Duyvil can do our best to maintain a clean and safe environment, a lot of the success of this upcoming school year depends more on what happens off school premises. While we cannot dictate any particular lifestyle for our families, we would strongly encourage that all families follow the recommended CDC safety guidelines related to COVID-19 to keep our children and our staff safe. The commitment from our families and staff to follow these guidelines will help us maintain the health and safety of our community and more importantly, will clearly show that we all care about the well-being of one another. These guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following –

ON SITE:

- All parents, caregivers and other family members will be required to wear a face mask (covering your mouth and nose) during drop-off & pick-up.
- Parents and caregivers will not be allowed on school premises beyond the street gate unless previously arranged with director.
- Parents will arrive promptly at their scheduled drop off and pick up times to help with smooth hand-offs. Parents arriving later may have to wait for a staff person to come outside to meet them.
- Parents will provide soft indoor shoes: Crocs, Teva, Tom's, soft shoes that stay on the foot and are washable.
- Full day Nursery and UPK families with purchase prescribed bedrolls for their child for nap/rest time. Each child's will be stored in a separate plastic bin. Example of bedroll suggested: search "Child's bedroll sleeping bag" on Amazon; a one-piece with pillow unit that rolls up easily
- Children will not be sent to school if they have had a fever within 24 hours; this is an existing health rule.

OFF SITE:

- As per NY State DOH guidelines, all members of your household over 2 years old will wear a face mask or face covering in public. They will make good faith attempts to socially distance, especially on public transportation, in stores and on crowded sidewalks
- Limit travel where possible, especially to any state that is considered at-risk, but if you must travel, please follow all travel guidelines including self-quarantining for up to 14 days (note - quarantining is required when traveling from an at-risk state) Please note that the list of at-risk states changes and the most recent list can be found at several sites but they vary in being most current. It is everyone's obligation to make sure they have the most up-to-date information.
- Inform the school of the following –
 - If you are traveling to an at-risk state
 - If you will have a visitor in your home traveling from an at-risk state
 - If informed, the school will maintain confidentiality as required.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and keep your children home if they are sick.
- Inform the school of the following -
 - If anyone in your immediate household has come in contact with anyone that is currently positive for COVID-19
 - If anyone in your immediate household is being tested for COVID-19
 - If informed, the school will maintain confidentiality as required
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in your home.
- Do not congregate in large groups, especially in groups of more than 10 people, but if you must congregate, please do so outdoors as much as possible.

When you sign in your child every day you are also attesting to this Community Commitment letter.

Our hope is that all families will commit to following the above guidelines and understand that every one of our individual efforts (or lack thereof) affects the community as a whole. Our priority is the health of our staff members, your little ones and our overall community. We hope that you will join us in our determination to have a safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Judith Menken, Director
Spuyten Duyvil Re-opening Committee
Spuyten Duyvi Board of Directors