



The OPEN DOOR CHILD CARE CENTRE

Ministry of The Abbotsford Church of The Nazarene

"Following the ways of Jesus. Guiding children to do the same."

May 28, 2020

COVID-19 PARENT NOTICE

Re: Covid-19 Understanding and Expectations

In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we feel it is important to clarify that Dr. Bonnie Henry has confirmed and encouraged childcare to remain open, where possible, to serve families that are needing childcare.

The Open Door will continue to follow all updated protocols and procedures as outlined by the Health Authorities.

Given these important requirements, it is imperative that we are resolute in our health policy, and that all parents/guardians understand and agree to the following additional requirements:

Illness and Attendance

- Children may not attend The Open Door programs if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever. From the onset of any such symptoms, children must remain at home for no less than 10 days.
- Children may not attend The Open Door programs if any family member, or individual residing in their household has exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 and, any symptoms of respiratory illness, or has returned from any travel outside of Canada. In these instances, children must remain at home for no less than 14 days.
- Individuals residing in the household with any child attending The Open Door are to be taking all precautions possible to limit their exposure to COVID-19.

There are no exceptions to this illness policy.

Arrival

- Upon arrival at The Open Door facility, parents and children must proceed immediately to the designated washrooms to complete a thorough hand-washing.
- Signs will serve as visual reminders for health & safety protocols.
- Parents should limit their time within The Open Door facility to only what is absolutely necessary, and maintain social distancing (2 meters) from staff and other children.
- The staff member will sign your child in (and out). This is to eliminate additional use of clipboards.
- Each morning the staff will ask each parent to confirm that their child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease.
- If a child becomes ill while at The Open Door a staff member will be assigned to stay with the child in a designated area until the parent is notified and child is picked up.

Cleaning and Sanitization

- Following the current health authority guidelines for sanitization and care, frequently touched surfaces (tables, chairs, handles, switches, sinks etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected twice a day.
- All water fountains will be covered. Personal water bottles need to be sent with your child to The Open Door.
- Gym equipment will be limited and sanitized daily with a bleach and water solution.
- Playground structure will be sanitized daily with a bleach and water solution.

Personal Hygiene

- Personal hygiene and hand washing will be taught, reminded, and reinforced regularly. Children will wash their hands upon arrival at The Open Door, before and after eating, before and after using the bathrooms, and before and after going outside.
- Personal respiratory etiquette (cough or sneeze into elbow or tissue) will be taught and reinforced regularly.

Social Distancing

- While we are doing our best at social distancing some additional steps we are taking to encourage this are:
 - With school age transportation we are using one van to transport children to and from school and minimizing the number of children and staff in one vehicle and spacing out the children inside the van.
 - The children's cubbies and coat hooks are spaced out
 - To discourage multiple children gathering at one activity we set up activities around the classroom and limit each activity to two children
 - While having snack, lunch, snack, we limit the number of children at the tables.
 - Increasing the amount of time spent outside playing in the back playground and parking lot

In light of the social distancing recommendations of the B.C. Health Minister, children are only attending The Open Door when deemed as a necessity for care to ensure continuation of "COVID-19 Essential Service" roles as defined by the Provincial Health Officer.

We ask that all parents familiarize themselves with the Provincial document summarizing COVID-19 facts as they pertain to the childcare environment. This can be found at the following link:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/ca_covid19_childcare_settings_mar_24_2020.pdf

For the well-being of children, staff and families, open transparency and candor is required around all the above requirements. Although this may lead to some challenging conversations, we all need to acknowledge and respect the necessity and intention of care during this pandemic. We sincerely appreciate your compliance and understanding!

Jennifer St. Jean,
Director of The Open Door