



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

350 W Sahuarita Road
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
520-625-3502 ext. 1925

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you ECC families for your patience and understanding in an unprecedented approach in the opening of the preschool 2020-2021 school year. Flexibility and patience will be key this school year.

Given that health benchmarks and guidance from Pima County Health Department indicate that we are able to resume in-person classes at a reduced capacity, we are scheduled to tentatively open for services on September 17, 2020.

It is important to note that our times of operation have changed. The ECC will now be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We are asking parents/guardians to please register your child as soon as possible as we will be operating at a reduced capacity, per CDC guidelines. When we do return, we will have new safety measures in place, including increased sanitation of all areas, increased staff/student handwashing, social distancing within the classrooms, cohorting, and reducing the number of children and staff in the classrooms. Children will not be sharing items, and each child will have their own personal cubby for their individual items. The classroom will be cleaned on a consistent basis along with the playground between groups.

To facilitate our health and safety, we are strongly recommending and encouraging that all students wear a mask to school. We understand due to their age, some of our students may find it difficult to wear a mask. Staff will assist and teach students how to wear their masks properly, and mask breaks will be given when reasonable to do so. All staff will be required to wear a face mask.

In order to minimize the risk of students/staff exposure to illness throughout the school, staff/students will remain with their designated class throughout the day. Interactions with other classrooms will not be permitted at this time. The ECC playground has been divided into 4 sections and classrooms will rotate daily and stay in their designated section. We are encouraging as much outdoor learning as possible, taking the heat into consideration. Staff will be assigned a specific classroom and will not interact with coworkers outside of their designated classroom.

We will also closely monitor all students and staff for any signs of illness. Staff and students will have their temperature taken daily as they arrive. Anyone with a fever of 100 degrees or above will be sent home and not allowed to return until fever-free for 72 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Anyone with vomiting/diarrhea must be free from symptoms for 24 hours without



medication to return to school/work. In the event that a student becomes ill, we have a designated quarantine space. The student will wait in the designated quarantine space with an E.C.C. staff member until parents/guardians arrive to pick up the child. We ask that parents/guardians be prepared to pick up their child within 30 minutes of contact. Illness policy updates are also located in our Handbook.

To help stop the spread of germs we ask that students do not bring stuffed animals, blankets, or toys from home. If your child is part of the younger group of students that nap, a personal nap roll, crib sheet, and a small pillow will be needed. Those items will be required to be taken home each week and washed.

Please no backpacks. Your child should bring 2 complete changes of clothes in a gallon-sized Ziplock bag to keep in their cubby. Additionally, each child should have a personal water bottle that has a pop-open cap. Water bottles with straws or removable tops are discouraged.

With the aim of maintaining sanitation, we ask that when preparing snacks/lunch for your child, try to pack items that your child can open themselves, or with the use of personal scissors. There will be instances where an adult needs to assist a student to open a food item; nevertheless, we would like to keep that to a minimum.

In order to lower the risk of illness spread, drop off and pick up has changed. Parents/guardians will no longer come into the building to drop off or pick up students. Designated ECC staff will be responsible for shuttling students to and from the classroom at drop off and pick up time. It is very important for you to communicate with your child's teacher the time in which you will be dropping off and picking up your child. Communication with your child's teacher will be through email, telephone, or Class Dojo. At this time, we will not have any visitors in the building.

We understand this is a difficult time. We are hopeful to return to school; however, the health and safety of your child and our staff are our priority. We have been working hard to ensure the school is sanitized and ready for your child's return. The teachers are anxiously awaiting for school to resume. As we move forward to a return date, any new information we receive will promptly be shared with you.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

We hope you are well and to see you all soon!

Sincerely,

Cheryl McGlothlen, Director

