

Welcome, parents!

Sea to Sky Community Services (SSCS) has made a few changes to our school aged childcare programming to reflect BC's new COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for childcare programs. The SSCS COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy is included, for your review.

Please use this link for information on COVID-19 Guidance from the Government.

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance\\_Child\\_Care.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf)

We know that you may be worried about COVID-19, and about the health and safety of your child. We share your concerns, and want to assure you that we have put in place policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of both your children and our employees.

### **Our COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures**

We're taking a number of steps to ensure the health and safety of both your children, and our employees at the out of school care program. To support us in keeping everyone safe, we ask you to follow these guidelines.

- Adults – other than staff – are requested not to enter the building unless necessary; we ask that only one adult drop off/pick up each child daily.
- Parents will be asked to drop off, or enter if needed, and pick up at the outside door of the facility. We ask that if you are waiting to drop off or pickup to please follow physical distancing protocols and either remain in your car with your child, or wait a two-meter distance away from other families that may also be waiting. We encourage staggered arrivals and pick ups.
- Each day, upon arrival, an educator will greet you and your child. The educator may go through a risk assessment questionnaire with you, to ensure that your child is healthy to attend that day. You will be asked to sign the form confirming that your child is symptom-free, and has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the past 12 hours. If your child has any symptoms identified in the questionnaire, they will not be permitted to attend the program until tested for COVID-19 and results have been received. If any symptoms develop during the day, your child will be isolated and you will be contacted immediately. **Parents or caregivers MUST pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill. When that is not possible then another local contact person must be available.**

- We ask that you take your child's temperature at home beforehand to confirm your child does not have a fever, in which case, you must stay home. If your child is cleared to attend the program, they will be brought inside to wash their hands immediately upon entry and then settle into the program routine.

SSCS staff will take all reasonable precautions for health and safety while providing care for your children. Part of the educator's role in group childcare is to help children learn about health and hygiene, to teach about coughs and sneezes, handwashing and good hygiene. We also acknowledge that children are learning these skills.

Young children need human contact, they need cuddles, and they need soothing if they are upset. They naturally play in close contact with one and other and play is what they need in stressful times like these. Teaching social distancing skills will take time and will be extremely difficult to maintain in a group childcare setting. To facilitate distancing, we have made changes and modifications in our classroom environment, daily routine and our approach to activities to make opportunities for more individual play and allowances for social/physical distancing.

Our educators are providing this childcare service for your families, knowing the risk to themselves as well. They will care for your children with dignity, compassion, joy and enthusiasm during these difficult times.

We cannot guarantee that there will be zero transmission of COVID-19 in our childcare programs. Please see the link above for the 'Public Health Guidelines for Childcare Settings' for more information on the steps and precautions we are taking.

### **Cleaning & hygiene schedule**

Our staff will be taking all the expected universal health and hygiene precautions at all times. This includes increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and objects like door handles and toys.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [cheryl.simpson@sscs.ca](mailto:cheryl.simpson@sscs.ca) 604-892-5796 ext 122 or Lorraine Teanby, Childcare Coordinator at [lorraine.teanby@sscs.ca](mailto:lorraine.teanby@sscs.ca) 604-567-9088. To reach the school aged program directly about your child please contact the program cell number:

Brackendale: 604-892-4099

Garibaldi Highlands: 604-848-8344

Valleycliffe: 604-848-5471

Squamish: 604-892-7620

Mamquam 604-892-7783

Be well and stay safe,

Cheryl Simpson

Manager of Childcare Services, Sea to Sky Community Services