



July 17, 2020

Hello PIC Families,

With two weeks under our belts, we are happy to report how well the children are doing upon their return. I thank you all for helping us implement the new guidelines. With your help, we will continue to provide high quality programming to your children.

We knew when we reopened that we would need to respond quickly to changing COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines.

Today I am sharing some of our learning of the past two weeks and the reminders we feel are needed. Please bear with me. I know that this is a lot of information.

- **What happens outside of PIC matters within PIC**

- We ask that everyone sending their child(ren) to PIC be mindful of their contact circles. As the city and state have more freely opened, families are again vacationing and spending time with more people. Please be as diligent as possible. Our goal is to keep everyone safe, and allow PIC to remain open.
- We ask again that families follow the current travel advisories. If you travel to a state on the Philadelphia travel restriction list, please keep your child home for 14 days.

- **Absences**

- If you plan for your child not to come**

- If you plan in advance for your child not to come to PIC, please let your teacher know via the Tadpoles app or in an email to the child's teacher.

- Staying home, but your child is **NOT** sick**

- If you keep your child home **NOT** DUE TO SICKNESS, please let your teacher know via the Tadpoles app or in an email to the child's teacher.

My child is sick

- If your child is home with ANY TYPE OF SICKNESS, please contact me directly at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org or Assistant Director Jessica Carter at jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org.
- **COVID-19 symptoms or testing**
 - **If your child is home with COVID-19 SYMPTOMS or you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, please directly contact me at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org or Assistant Director Jessica Carter at jcarter@parentinfantcenter.org.**
- **Home toys**

In consultation with teachers, we have agreed that:

 - A child may bring in a book from home to be read to the children in the classroom
 - A child who relies on a special “transition soft toy” for support may bring the toy to PIC in the child’s backpack. The toy can be brought out at rest time and will be put back in the backpack to return home. *Please remind your child that it is not a toy that can come out during the day to be played with by other children.*
- **Pick-up from PIC**

At pick-up, families may not go on the Nature Playground or the Tot Lot, or the PAS playing field. *For health and safety, the Pick-up process is currently under review and may change in the COVID-19 handbook.*
- **Outdoor time at PIC**

We want children to spend as much time outside as possible. We made the decision to allow children to play outside in groups of two “buddy” classrooms. This gives children significantly more time outside, than they would get if only one classroom used each space at a time. Our observations have been that because the spaces are so large, the children naturally physically distance.
- **Nature Playground**

If using the playground after hours, we remind you of the importance of handwashing as soon as you get home. The climber is not disinfected by PIC after hours. It is disinfected before each day at PIC begins, and after each group uses it during the day.
- **When you get home**

One of our Task Force physicians advises the following:

 - Take off your clothes wherever possible before fully entering the house and put clothes immediately into the wash.
 - If no easily accessible separate entry, take off shoes and go barefoot into the home, handwash, and then shower.
 - Leave shoes at entry.
 - Leave the backpack or bag at entry.

- Wash hands.
- Take a hot shower with hair washing before doing anything else.
- **Wash water bottles. *This is really important!***
- **Practices in Place at PIC**

We have taken many steps to reduce exposure to COVID-19. These include:

 - Significant morning screening process before entry.
 - Smaller group sizes and limiting exposure to children in other classrooms.
 - Less toys in the classroom and we removal of those that cannot be easily disinfected.
 - An added cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing routine for each classroom.
 - No wading pools or classroom sensory tables for play.
 - Individual portions of playdough, art supplies and other materials.
 - Limit the number of children at a table during play, activities, and at snack and lunch time.
 - Using easy-to-wash trays for children to engage in independent play at tables.
 - And, as always frequent handwashing is the cornerstone of all that we do!

As our enrollment increases, we will continue to monitor our practices. We are committed to providing opportunities for children that are as safe and as developmentally appropriate as possible.

One last note. We are aware that the School District of Philadelphia released its plan for students attending school in the fall. Please know that we are discussing ways that PIC may be able to support families during this challenging time. We have many things to consider, including health, safety, quality, and PIC's financial solvency. *Please stay tuned for more information.*

As we navigate this new world, we know that our success greatly depends upon our partnership with families. We know that you and your child(ren) need us right now, and please know that we need you too!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Green
Executive Director