

Dear families,

Covid-19 has greatly impacted our schools, our homes and most importantly, our kids. We are going to open Little Joes in a safe, but as normal as possible, manner. Some of our precautionary measures will include but are not limited to:

- Please take your child's temperature and assess any symptoms your child may have before leaving home. Child must be symptom free. If your child has been exposed (per DeKalb Co. Health Dept.- 6ft or less for 15 min. or longer), they will not be admitted. If your child has a runny nose due to diagnosed allergies, they will be free to come to school. If a runny nose is an unusual symptom for your child, please consider that a symptom to be monitored and keep them home.**
- Upon arrival we will take your child's temperature with a forehead thermometer (this is a more accurate reading than a no touch thermometer, we will sanitize after each child), we will ask about any symptoms your child may be experiencing, children will be required to wash hands (handwashing will be taught and closely monitored) before entering the classroom.**
- Each day we will sanitize doorknobs, hand railings, light switches, faucets, sinks, toilets, tables, chairs, snack supplies, etc. Drinking fountains will not be available, we will be using disposable cups only.**
- Toys, puzzles, books, writing utensils, centers etc. will be rotated on a 7-day basis (this being the longest amount of time the virus has been known to last on a surface) we will sanitize what we can. Nothing needing laundering will be used until further notice.**
- Handwashing procedure: Before school, transition times, before and after snack, after restroom use, when coming in from outside play- All children will be taught to wash properly, for 20 seconds or longer. We will probably be singing the alphabet and counting so it can be a learning tool as well.**
- Be prepared for last minute cancellations if either Miss Arielle or I show symptoms. If we encounter a positive case, we may have to shut down temporarily, this will be determined on a case by case basis.**
- Miss Arielle and I will have masks available, at all times, when in close proximity to the children. If you choose to send your child in a mask, we will do our best to keep them on. We have also ordered plexiglass desk shields for small group table time**

It is such a trying time to be an educator, and to be a parent. What is the right thing to do? We will be closely following the CDC and the DeKalb County Health Department for updates and changes in their recommendations. We will advise you of any changes being made, and of any positive cases we encounter. We will not be asking children to wear masks, attached is our perception of what that would look like at preschool (just a little something to make you smile in this chaos). We will attempt social distancing in any way possible (circle time, music time, snack time), children will be seated 6ft. apart. This will limit the amount of time they are in proximity. However, center time, playtime will be nearly impossible to keep them 6ft. Apart. We also firmly believe to distance them during playtime, time that they should be interacting, would be detrimental to their social and emotional development. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we all work together in monitoring for symptoms. We are painfully aware how difficult this is going to be and hope to be able to relax these measures soon. But for the time being we must work closely together to adhere to these guidelines. I am certain we can make this a fun and exciting experience for your children and am looking forward to this year even with the challenges it presents.

Thanks everyone for your patience, understanding and grace. We cannot wait to get started.

Masks in Preschool...

Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewelry.

You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.

Please do not chew on your mask.

Your mask should be on your face, not on the back of your head

I'm sorry your mask is wet, but that's what happens when you lick the inside of it.

No, you may not blow your nose in your mask.

Why is your mask soaking wet? You just came back from the bathroom?

And you put it back on your face after you dropped it?

I'm sorry you broke the elastic on your mask by seeing how far the band would stretch. Now you'll have to hold the mask on your face ... or use this duct tape.

Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you're walking. I don't care if you have X-ray vision.

Please take the mask off of your pencil and stop twirling it.

What do you mean you tried to eat your snack through your mask?

Please don't share your mask or trade masks.

We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.

I'm sorry your breath stinks in your mask, maybe we should all try to brush better.

Please take those cookies out of your mask. No, you are not a chipmunk.

You're not a pirate, please take your mask off your eye.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can.

Please don't use your mask to pick your nose.

No, your mask doesn't make it hard to write your name.

Why is there a shoe print on your mask?

Please don't plug your nose holes with your mask.

Who's making that noise?

I'm sorry your ponytail is stuck, that's what happens when you see how many times you can wrap it around your mask.

I'm sorry to tell you, but your child thought her mask made her a superhero. She tried to fly off the jungle gym at recess ...