Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I understand that for now, I can’t come into the building to drop off or pick up my child.** **What will happen if my child gets very upset?**  In the event your child is upset at drop off, you will be permitted into the building as long as you wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before entering. You may then take your child to the classroom doorway and his/her teacher will help them transition from there. Please do not enter the classroom.
2. **Why does everything needed for lunch have to be disposable?** The CDC recommendation is that the safest way to keep the Center as germ free as possible is to limit the items that are brought in to the Center from home. Lunch boxes, thermos, Tupperware containers, etc. would all need to be wiped down with sanitizer before being placed on the table to make sure that any germs from outside the Center are eliminated. While this doesn’t sound like an odious task to do for 1 child, multiply that by 100 children and you can see how time consuming that would be for the teachers.
3. **Can I bring water bottles to school?** Yes, every child needs a water bottle!!! It should be clearly labeled with your child’s name. Our teachers can wash them in soapy water and sanitize them each night so that you only have to take them home on Friday.
4. **Will teachers apply sunscreen?** Yes! Your job is to put sunscreen on your child before coming to school and the teachers will reapply during the day. Please send in a container of sunscreen labeled with your child’s name to be kept at school. We need to keep sunscreen locked in our closets, so please do not put it on your child’s cubby.
5. **Will my child be able to use his/her water bottle or sippy cup throughout the day?** Yes, but it will look different than it did before. In the past, we were able to put sippy cups and water bottles on the child’s name or picture so they could have access it whenever they want. This resulted in a few “mistakes” where a child would drink out of someone else’s cup. Not such a big deal before COVID, but now a huge big deal. So, all cups and water bottles will be out of reach of the children but they will have access to it any time they want and will be encouraged to drink from it throughout the day. They will also be taken outside for all activities.
6. **How will masks be handled and stored?** Each child will have a brown paper bag with their name on in which the mask will be place when not in use. You can decide what type of mask you want your child to use. Cloth masks must be taken home each evening for laundering. Disposable masks can be thrown away but I don’t think they make a small enough mask for our younger children. Please know that no child will ever be “forced” to wear a mask!
7. **How will pick up be handled**? **Do I have to stick to my usual pick up time or can I change it?**  I have to be honest, pick up time is the one thing that scares me to death. We have practiced drop off, but pick up is a big unknown because it will be based on how many people are picking up at the same time and how we get the children from point a to point b. I think pick up will be a little rough at the beginning so please bear with us. Once we have figured it out based on your schedules, it will get better. You can change your pick up time; if you can give us a heads up, that would be very helpful.
8. **How can I communicate with my child’s teacher if I can’t see them at drop off or pick up**? Thank goodness we have HiMama! Please feel free to write to the teachers to ask questions or just check in. With many of our youngest children, we rely on you to tell us his/her morning schedule for feeding, diapering and sleeping so that we can continue on the schedule you have set up. Unfortunately, this communication will now need to be done through HiMama and I am sorry for the extra time it will take you to write the note. You can also call anytime you want and we can put you through to your child’s teacher, but please remember that our teachers are often outside, doing circle time or teaching when you call and might not be able to talk to you at that moment. Jaye and Elizabeth will be happy to talk to you and help you in any way possible.
9. **Will my children be able to play with other children or will they have to “social distance” throughout the day**? We understand that kids are kids and learn best when playing together. Our group sizes are smaller than normal which will give us extra space for the children to spread out and we will not be separating them to keep them 6 feet apart. We couldn’t do it if we tried. That’s when proper handwashing, masks (when possible) and sanitizing become even more important!
10. **Will my child play with any other children in the Center or will it just be with their own class**? We will be following the CDC guidelines which recommend that each group of children stay with the same group of children and adults each day and not mix with all different groups. Each classroom will have a “Buddy Class” that they will interact with throughout the day so they have a nice mix of children to play with. The teachers will also remain with them all day and there will not be “floaters” going in and out of each room. When they go outside, they will play with their buddy classroom as well as their own.