

MCRC Licensed Child Care and Covid-19

Screening Procedures

All MCRC programs follow current guidelines provided by the local health department and the Ministry of Education.

When arriving at the centre each morning, all children and staff are screened for potential symptoms of Covid-19, including a temperature check, prior to going inside.

Once the screening is complete, a dedicated staff will escort children to their classroom and teacher. At this time, parents and non-essential visitors are not permitted to enter the centre.

Symptoms of Illness

If a child develops potential symptom of Covid-19 while in care, they are immediately separated from the other children, and parents are contacted to pick up.

If a staff member develops any symptoms while working, they will be immediately sent home.

Children and staff showing symptoms will be excluded from care and may return after self-isolating for 14 days, or until 24 hours symptom free after a negative test result is received.

If the symptoms are due to a known underlying condition, parents may be asked to provide a doctor's note to confirm before returning to the centre.

Health and Sanitary Procedures

We have implemented a number of enhanced cleaning protocols, as advised by our local health department, including:

- Disinfecting all high touch surfaces, toys and materials multiple times per day ,
- Washing all bedding daily,
- Limiting the personal belongings brought into the centre by staff and children,
- Ensuring staff and children are washing their hands frequently and that hand sanitizer is available, and
- Providing personal protective equipment for our staff including gloves, masks and face shields.

In addition, our custodial staff are onsite every evening to conduct a thorough cleaning of all the classrooms.

Our Classrooms

We have made minor changes to our classrooms to help ensure the health and safety of our children and staff. These include:

- Classrooms operating in cohorts and ensuring the cohorts do not mix
- Removing unnecessary furniture to create more space and promote physical distancing
- Removing area rugs and/or replacing them with vinyl mats that can be easily disinfected

- Ensuring children’s cubbies have been spaced out to help prevent their personal belongings from touching each other
- During mealtimes, staff plate and serve the food for everyone. The children are seated with more distance between them but are still close enough to talk and socialize with each other.

Classroom Materials

We have also made adjustments to the toys, materials and activities provided in the classroom:

- Any materials that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected have been removed. Children still have a wide range of toys, materials and books to explore
- Individual art kits have been created for each child to minimize the sharing of pencils, crayons, scissors, etc.
- Children are provided with individual sensory activities and communal water/sand tables have been removed

Our Staff

In addition to our Educators and Supervisors, we have additional staff on site to provide support.

Our cooks continue to prepare healthy and delicious meals and snacks.

Our float staff are assigned to specific classrooms to provide breaks and support ongoing cleaning.

And our screening and custodial staff are ensuring that our centres are a safe and healthy place for everyone.

Our Commitment

At MCRC, we strive to provide children with a safe and nurturing environment where they feel a sense of belonging and can grow and learn.

During these unprecedented times, our mission remains the same.

We are committed to providing high quality childcare, supporting families, and ensuring that the children are thriving in our new normal.

For more information and ongoing updates, please visit www.mrcr.on.ca/covid19/