

Covid-19

We plan to comply with current state and federal guidelines and will be ready to adapt as the guidelines are updated or there is a cure, vaccine, or proven treatment for the virus. We encourage you to visit the following links and read each of the documents around which we are creating our new policies.

[Open Texas Checklist for Child Care Families](#)
[Open Texas Checklist for Child Care Operations](#)

And please bear with us in this unprecedented time as we are learning and adapting daily. Things to expect:

- Drop off and pick up procedures will change. We have increased drop off time and some classes will drop off on the south side of the building. Parents (wearing masks/personal protection equipment or PPE) will need to exit their vehicle to unbuckle their child and are not allowed to leave until the child has passed a temperature check. Each child will use hand sanitizer upon entry to the playground and immediately wash hands once inside the building. We will encourage developmentally appropriate social distancing and avoid combining groups.
- Classes will be split into smaller groupings. Personal protection equipment like masks or face shields will be required for teachers and staff, optional for children. Each group will have dedicated sets of toys that will be sanitized at the end of each session. Classes will have staggered playground times. Children will have their own sets of crayons, scissors, playdough, glue, etc. We will encourage developmentally appropriate social distancing (i.e., two or three children at a table designed for 6) and activity centers will be limited to one or two children at a time. If a teacher is reading, demonstrating, or leading circle time at a distance, the PPE may be removed. Teachers will wear smocks or have extra clothing to change into in case a child has shared a face full of moisture (from eyes, mouth, or nose!)
- We are planning for extra staffing to help with all the extra disinfecting. Touch free hand sanitizer dispensers will be available in multiple places. Each class will have its own touch free thermometer. Teachers will have enough paid sick days to insure they stay home if needed. **ALL STAFF WILL GET TESTED BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK**

This is what we are asking of you as concerned and responsible parents:

- Do not bring your child to school if they have ANY SYMPTOM AT ALL. This includes cough, runny nose, rash, change in temperament (tired, lethargic, loss of appetite, etc.), diarrhea, and of course, fever. If we see any of these symptoms, we will separate them from the group and call for pick up. They must be symptom free for 72 hours-which is the amount of time to be clear coming out of covid-19 quarantine. **If your child or someone in your household has Covid-19, we will require a physician's note before the child can return to school.**
- Please remain six feet apart from others. Please wear masks or PPE at drop off and pick up. Please use hand sanitizer where available.
- Inform us of any travel and quarantine as directed by health authorities.
- If you come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive for the virus, please get tested and do not come to school for two weeks. **If you or someone in your household has tested positive, we will require a physician's note before your child can return to school.**

We know that on the surface these new guidelines seem the opposite of what our pro-social program is all about. Please know that we plan to meet these requirements in the most developmentally appropriate way and that your children will adapt to all this and still have lots of fun. The Acorn will continue to be a warm, loving environment where the children will find joy in learning, the wonders of discovery, and the happiness of friendships. We intend to model best practices in our current situation with confidence and joy and fully expect that the children will rise to the occasion. Remember that children often feed off of the energy of trusted adults and we want to give them the tools they need to better cope with the current situation. Our hope is that as more information is learned about the virus, we will be able to adapt our policies in accordance with state and federal guidelines.