

REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES

Many changes have been put in place throughout the state, valley, and in the child care centers to keep your children and our community healthy and safe during the response to COVID-19. We know these are difficult times and we are here to do what is best for your children. Information about COVID-19 in children is somewhat limited, but the information that is available suggests that many children have mild symptoms or be asymptomatic. However, a small percentage of children have been reported to have more severe illness. If you have children with underlying health conditions, talk to their health care provider about their risk.

Here's what we are doing to keep our children, families, and teachers safe for our reopening on May 4th

Monitoring for illness through the day. Each child and staff member will have their temperature taken and be assessed for symptoms at arrival, in the afternoon and at any point a staff member feels they may be sick. If at any point in the day a child or adult is found to be ill, they will be sent home immediately. If your child is sick or someone in your home is sick, please keep your child home. Child care providers are prepared to exclude children and staff based on appropriate timelines for illness. All programs are required to follow state guidelines for closures due to exposure or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Encouraging social distancing. Special efforts will be taken attempt to social distance in the child care facility. The children's needs will still come first and foremost. Group sizes and intermixing will be limited, visitors and special services to the child care center are not allowed at this time. Drop-off and pick-up routines may be changed to limit interactions in the center or home.

Face covering usage has been recommended by the Governor of Colorado as well as Local Public Health Authorities. All adults will wear a face covering during drop off and pick up. Teachers and staff members will wear face coverings. Children age 3 and older are encouraged to wear a face covering. The centers will have clean face coverings available. We understand that this may be difficulty for children, we have a social story prepared. We also realized that face covering may not be appropriate for all children and are prepared to assess this on an individual basis.

Small group sizes will be implemented for all ages, with no group having over 10 children. Groups will not mix throughout the day in classrooms or for outside play. Staffing patterns will be monitored to ensure best practices for limiting exposure for children and adults.

Hand washing has always been important and will continue to be emphasized in the child care facility. We encourage you to wash your children's hands frequently at home as well, especially upon returning home.

Respiratory etiquette is important in helping stop the spread of germs and is as simple as coughing/sneezing into your elbow or a tissue (disposed of properly) and washing hands well after.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures for environments and materials will be based on the most current CDPHE guidelines. Staff are being trained in the most vigilant routines for the health of everyone. Increased ventilation is being encouraged with open windows and fresh air. Soft-sided materials and sensory tables have been removed from environments for more effective disinfecting.

High risk groups are encouraged to talk with their health care provider before returning to child care. Those in high risk groups include: age 60 or older, those with underlying health conditions or chronic medical conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns about the measures introduced in this letter we have additional more detailed documents on these topics and our Child Care Health Consultant is happy to answer any questions. You can direct to questions to your Child Care Provider or Janet Ost RN, CCHC jcost@gunnisoncounty.org

Here's what **TENDERFOOT** is doing
to keep our children, families, and teachers safe for our reopening on May 4th

Tenderfoot's new opening hours will be Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM.

Parents/Guardians will be asked to sign an Acknowledgement & Disclosure Statement and new handbook agreement form. These forms are available for your review at tenderfootchildcare.org. Hard copy forms will be available for signatures in person.

Tuition policies will remain the same. Families will pay for the days they commit to at the regular rates for four weeks regardless of their child's attendance. Drop-in days and flexible scheduling for infants cannot be accommodated at this time. There will be no re-enrollment fees if your child was attending regularly before the closure. Tuition for May will be due by June 10th.

Face coverings will be provided for all children over the age of 3 and all staff. Families may also provide a face covering for their child to be left at Tenderfoot and will be washed daily. Face coverings must have two layers of fabric that covers the mouth and nose (double layer buffs and bandannas are ok). Children will be encouraged to wear their face covering during the day except for nap and meal times. More detailed information about wearing face coverings in child care settings can be found on our website.

Gloves will be worn as required by CDPHE's standard precautions, but will not be worn all day by children or staff.

Wellness checks will be implemented for all children and staff. Body temperatures and symptoms will be checked for all children and staff upon entering the center and logged. Tenderfoot will follow the County protocols for assessing children and adult's health and any individual with a heightened body temperature will be asked to leave immediately. Wellness checks will be repeated after lunch. Tenderfoot's illness policy has been reinforced to mitigate the virus and can be found on our website. The bottom line is to keep everyone healthy, there will be no allowance of possible sickness in our school at this time.

Drop-off & Pick-up will be as we left off in mid-March with a closed door policy. Adults will bring their children to the front doors while wearing a face covering and practicing safe social-distancing. Children and belongings will be received by a teacher and will be escorted to their classroom. Staff will sign children in/out on the ELV system each day. Pick up will be the reversed process. Families are encouraged to drop their children off between 8:00 and 8:30 and pick them up between 3:30 and 4:00. Doors will remain locked all day and you will be asked to call ahead or ring the doorbell if you need to drop off or pick up your child outside of the given times.

Belongings from home will be limited. Blankets, stuffed animals, and toys that are not necessary for happy days will be kept at home to limit the spread of germs.

Children and staff will wear "school shoes." Research has found that the COVID-19 virus can be spread by shoes from one environment to another. Children and teachers will be asked to provide a pair of clean shoes that can be kept at Tenderfoot and sanitized to wear for classroom and playground activities. School shoes will be kept in the lobby at the front doors. Shoes from home can be left outside (weather permitting) the front doors or kept by families for coming and going to the center.

All children will be asked to have extra clothes. Families will be asked to provide a set or two of extra clothes to be kept at Tenderfoot. Clothing may be changed if soiled with bodily secretions.

Long hair should be worn up. Children and adults with long hair will be asked to wear it up at all times.

Snacks will be served individually. Teachers will serve children prepared snacks individually (not family style).

Full COVID-19 guidance documents and disclosure statements can be found at tenderfootchildcare.org