

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE



Consider A New Drop Off or Pick Up Procedure where staff meet children at the main entrance upon arrival, and bring children back to the main entrance for departure, so families do not have to enter the building. Be sure to explain the reasoning behind any new policy and ensure that open communication is more important now, than ever. Let parents know what means of communication are most convenient for the program (Facebook, email, text, phone calls during certain time frames, etc.). Additionally, think about staggered assigned schedules so that a family can arrive within their normal time frame, but not at the same time as several other families.

REDUCE FOOT TRAFFIC

Reduce the amount of foot traffic in your program. Refrain from allowing visitors into the program (OCFS not included). Create a virtual tour of your program and classrooms so that it can be sent to potential families via email. Ask vendors to call you upon delivery and leave deliveries curbside

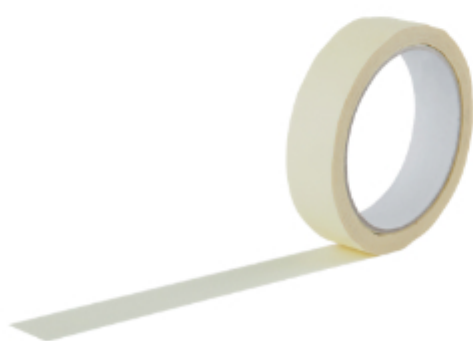


EXTRA CLOTHING

Have staff bring an extra set of clothing in case of contamination during the day. Staff may want to consider changing out of their work clothes before heading home..

HEALTH POLICY UPDATES

Consider updates to your child and staff health policies, including Daily Health Checklists to monitor the health of your staff as an extra precaution.



USE VISUALS

Consider using Visuals to mark spaces and distance. Use them in areas or places children usually stand near each other like where they line up, sit in circle, or sit at a table. You can use tape or other cues to mark these areas.

SOCIAL STORIES

Consider using Social stories to talk with the children about what they are hearing, what is going on, what behaviors they need to adjust, how it changes how they engage with others, navigate their day to day, and that their adults are here to keep them safe. Sharing social stories with families can also give families a way to have healthy conversation about what is going on.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING IS POSSIBLE WITH SOME POSITIVE
GUIDANCE AND CREATIVITY!**



HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT MORE RESOURCES? CONTACT US!

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