



COVID-19 Policy Update

Revised January 2022

GraceKids(GKEL) will always consider the health and safety of our children and our staff are our first priority. We are committed to providing safe environment for our children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are continuously monitoring the latest developments in and around our community. As more information becomes available, we are adapting and making changes to our safety measures and protocols. We are following guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Health Department, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and leadership of Grace Fellowship Church.

In line with safety measures, we are implementing the following protocols and policies in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

*These protocols are subject to change at any time based on local, state, and national guidance.

Wellness Check for Staff and Children

GraceKids Early Learning (GKEL) has implemented screening procedures for our staff and children. This includes asking all individuals about any symptoms (primarily fever, cough, difficulty breathing or other signs of illness within the last 72 hours) - that they, or someone in their homes, might have. All

individuals will be asked if they have had any exposure to another individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- Illness Exclusions for Staff and Children
 - Persistent Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea that cannot be contained in a diaper
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees
- Parents must notify the school if a child has taken any fever reducing medications in the last 72 hours and must not bring the child to school.

Drop Off and Pick Up Policies and Procedures

- Parents are asked to maintain 6 feet distance from other parents/families.
- Staff will check in the child(ren) at the stations in the atrium
- Parents will be asked to take a brief questionnaire on Brightwheel regarding the health of the child as well as the child's immediate family daily.

- Staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include the exclusions listed above.
 - Parent's visits should be as brief as possible, and parents are discouraged from entering the classroom/hallways.
 - Parents should wash their own hands and assist in washing the hands of their children before drop-off, prior to coming for pick up, and when they get home.
 - Hand sanitizers will be out of the reach of children, but near all entry doors, classrooms, and other high traffic areas.
 - Ideally, the same parent should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, people with underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
 - GKEL now requires contactless check-in and check-out of the child. This will be done through the Brightwheel parent app/QR codes.

Protocol for Positive COVID-19 in Staff or Child of GraceKids

- GraceKids will contact the Health Department about the presence of COVID-19 in our facility. The local health authority will advise GraceKids on operational procedures.
- GraceKids will contact Child Care Regulation. The notification must occur as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours after the school becomes aware.
- GraceKids will coordinate with leadership of Grace Fellowship and local health officials to notify all parents within 48 hours of becoming aware that a child or employee has contracted COVID-19.

- GraceKids must maintain confidentiality of the child or employee.
- Children or employees will not be allowed to return to school until:
 1. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 2. Twenty-Four hours since last symptom (i.e. fever, diarrhea, vomiting.)
 3. The individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
 - In the case of an employee or child of GraceKids who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19; the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and may not return to work or school until the same 3 step criteria listed above is completed.
 - If the employee or child of GraceKids has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the 3-step criteria, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual to return on an alternative diagnosis.

Additional Protocol for COVID-19 cases:

- If a parent or a member of the same household tests positive for COVID-19 they will be required to notify the school, and the child or staff member should monitor their health for the above symptoms during the 5 day CDC suggested quarantine. If the child does not show symptoms, they may return to school after 5 days.
- If an employee believes they have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (not in the same household) but the employee is not currently sick, they should monitor their health

for the above symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19. This employee will still be allowed to come to school as long as no symptoms are present.

- If a parent believes they or their child has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (not in the same household) but are not currently sick, they should monitor their health for the above symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19. This child will still be allowed to come to school as long as no symptoms are present.

Cleaning Protocol for Positive COVID-19 in Staff or Child of GraceKids

- GraceKids will close off the areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before GKEL cleans or disinfects to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classrooms, offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited the school, additional cleaning and disinfecting is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

Pandemic Tuition Policy

- Should GKEL be required to close for COVID-19 reasons:

- If the school and/or a classroom is closed for more than 8 school days a 50% credit of the child's monthly tuition will be applied to their account.

- Should an individual student be required to stay home due to COVID-19 requirements or any illness, no credit will be given.

Parents may give a 30-day written notice to withdraw from the program if they feel it is the best interest of their family. You are responsible for the current month your child is enrolled. No supply fee or registration fee will be refunded.

Social and Physical Distancing

Children will remain in groups as small as possible not to exceed ratio and capacity requirements set by the State of Texas. We will keep the same children and teacher or staff with each group to the greatest extent possible. Extend the indoor environment to outdoors, if applicable and weather permitting. Arrange developmentally appropriate activities for smaller group activities. Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities. Educate children about social distancing and give verbal reminders. Implement strategies to model and reinforce social and physical distancing and movement as best as possible.

Healthy Hygiene Behavior/Hand Washing

Signs are posted in restrooms and near sinks that convey proper hand-washing techniques. Children will be lined up for hand washing with soap and water, while keeping a safe distance from one another. Staff will practice frequent hand washing by teaching a popular child-friendly song or counting to 20 (hand washing should last 20 seconds) and use paper towels to dry hands thoroughly.

All Children and Staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- * Arrival at the school.

- *Before and after preparing food or drinks.
- * Before and after eating or handling food or feeding children.
- * Before and after administering medication or medical ointment.
- * Before and after diapering.
- * After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom.
- * After encountering bodily fluid.
- *After playing outdoors.
- * After handling garbage.

Routine Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting

On top of our regular daily cleaning, the school will routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects throughout the day (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, shared toys). We will increase the cleaning of the restrooms from once a day to three times daily. We will utilize our electrostatic sprayer daily to ensure 360° of sanitation for toys and surfaces. We will sanitize outdoor play equipment and inside P.E. equipment after every class use.

Food Preparation and Meals

Parents will be required to provide lunch and a snack from home to eliminate cross-contamination as well as their own personal water bottle. Water fountains will be off limits.

Personal Items

All personal items should be labeled and kept in a separate bag to ensure personal items are separate from others.

Napping

Nap Mats will be spaced 6 feet apart from each other or if space does not allow children will be arranged with the head of each bed alternating, in opposite directions, to lessen the possible spread of

illness between children from coughing or sneezing. Nap mats will be sent home bi-weekly to be washed and disinfected.

Outdoor Play Time

Outdoor play activity will be staggered to reduce the number of children in the same area. More outdoor learning will be given to children, weather permitting.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenging and fluid situation. Federal, state, and local orders and guidance may change frequently, therefore our policies and procedures are subject to change accordingly. GraceKids Early Learning has established reasonable and preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, GraceKids Early Learning cannot guarantee that your child(ren) will not become exposed to or even infected with COVID-19 in the course of their use of the GraceKids Early Learning childcare services and facilities.

We have put into place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19.