

# Chai Tots Back to School 20-21

Dear Parents;

We are very excited to be back at Chai Tots 'in person' for the coming school year 2020-2021. Our primary focus at Chai Tots is to ensure that our students are provided with the opportunity to develop and grow in a social constructivist school environment; with engagement and individualized attention that are hallmarks of our pedagogy. The safety and health of our students, as well as their social emotional and cognitive growth will continue to be at the core of all that we do.

## Updated Policies and Guidelines

Please bear with us; ***As the virus evolves, policies and procedures are subject to change and will be updated on this website and via e-mail. We will continue to monitor the latest health guidelines, state mandated policies, CDC and Broward County Health Department recommendations to make adjustments to our programming policies and procedures. Safety will always be our number one priority for our children, staff and families.***

### Before Returning to School

**COVID-19 training for staff:** All Chai Tots teachers and staff will undergo comprehensive training over the summer to ensure understanding of the symptoms, methods of transmission, strategies for prevention and mitigation of COVID 19.

**Sanitizing & Cleaning :** We will continue to implement a higher standard of sanitizing & cleaning. The maintenance and cleaning policies have been updated to include vigorous disinfection on a routine basis.

**Travel policy:** Before and during the school year; all Chai Tots staff and students who have traveled out of the South Florida area will require a 14-day quarantine prior to being permitted on campus.

### Updated Sick Policy

-Chai Tots is dedicated to the well-being and health of our students and staff. For this reason the sick policy has become less flexible this year.

-If a child becomes symptomatic during the school day, the student will be immediately brought to the office and isolated. A parent will be required to pick up the child within a reasonable amount of time.

-We reserve the right to decide if your child is not healthy enough to be at

school.

– Chai Tots sick policy is updated to reflect a 48 hour wait time after fever or illness is over, (without the use of fever reducing medicines) including the procuring of a Dr.'s note that no COVID-19 testing is necessary or that child is COVID-19 free.

-Hard copy note or tele-doc note is acceptable.

-We reserve the right to ask you to keep your child home if another child or family member in the house is sick.

-If a positive COVID case is identified in school, Chai Tots will work with the local DOH and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding the need for initiating quarantines or temporarily closing. Affected students or staff will be notified immediately if they have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

### **Sanitizing & Cleaning**

-A daily cleaning schedule for toys and utensils have been posted in each classroom. All toys and supplies used during the day will be disinfected after use.

-A nightly cleaning and disinfecting will also take place by our cleaning crew.

-Toys will be rotated throughout the week to accommodate for a reasonable system of the daily sanitizing of toys.

-Individual skill and sensory boxes similar to a personal "pencil case" will be made per child to limit the sharing of personal items such as pencils, markers, scissors etc.

-Additional handwashing times for minimum of 20 seconds, has been updated and added to the routine.

- The playground will be disinfected between each class use.

– Each family will be asked to supply disinfectant wipes and spray as part of the yearly supply list.

– If your child remains for nap – the nap mat and all pillows and blankets will remain in school in large Ziplock bags and will be sent home Fridays for wash and return.

– Children cannot bring toys or food from home.

-New hand sanitizing stations have been installed in each classroom and throughout the building.

-Toilets will be sanitized after each use.

### **Staff:**

-All persons except the following will be prohibited from accessing our building: Operation staff, Law enforcement officers, Child Care Licensing staff, and Department of Children and Families protective services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation;

-Parents will not be allowed in the building.

- All permitted staff will be re-screened daily before entering the building.
- Anyone with a fever over 99.5F will not be allowed into school.

### **Daily health checks:**

- Please do your own screening at home before sending your child to school.
- Be sure they don't have fever, runny nose, cough, diarrhea or any of the illnesses listed in our parent handbook or any COVID-19 like symptoms.
- Do **not** medicate your child before sending to school.
- Upon arrival we will ask you basic questions about your child's and family's health.
- You must be wearing a mask. You will need to wait while we screen your child. It will be done quickly yet efficiently.
- We will take your child's temperature and check for any signs of illness.
- Once deemed safe to join we will give you the o.k and your child will be escorted to class by one of our staff members.
- The children will wash their hands upon arrival to the classroom.

### **Self Reporting:**

- A system will be put in place to request all staff to regularly report any symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, sore throat, congestion, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of sense of smell/taste, or exposure to COVID-19.
- Staff with symptoms or exposure will be asked to refrain from returning to school and protocols will be followed.
- Chai Tots students and families must report symptoms and exposures.

### **Individual class pods/ cohorts**

- Our class sizes will be adjusted to accommodate for the recommendation of smaller pods and or cohorts.
- Children and child care providers will not change from one group to another. Each class will remain in their respective classrooms and not change classes during the day.
- Outside play will be limited to only one class at a time per area.
- Enrichment classes and after school activities will not take place at the start of the school year to avoid exposure to new staff. Once we see that the situation with COVID is improving we will incorporate them into our program.
- Birthday parties will be celebrated in school, but unfortunately parents will not be able to join at this time.

## **Hand washing & overall cleanliness**

Additional hand washing times for minimum of 20 seconds, has been updated and added to the class routine and schedule and has been posted in each room.

## **Facial Covering Mask Wearing**

- When feasible, staff members will wear face masks. (Ie during carpool, diaper changing, meal times and when in common areas of the building.)
- Children over the age of 3 may wear face coverings within the facility.
- We are not mandating masks for the children
- If you choose to send your child with a face mask you must provide a clean new one for each day of the week.
- We reserve the right to remove a child's mask when deemed unsafe or being used inappropriately

## **Social Distancing**

When feasible, children will be practicing social distancing in appropriate manners. Some examples include: extra space between sleeping mats, extra space between mealtime seating spots, avoiding mixing class groups. The nature of child play, learning and growth is that of human connection and touch and we will not be altering our games or activities to allow for avoiding touch, but safe personal boundaries will be encouraged.

## **Modified School hours**

- We will no longer offer pre-care and after care until further notice.
- School hours will be from 9:00am- 1:00 pm for half day children and 9:00 - 3:30pm for full day.

## **Carpool**

- Drop off and pick up will be via 'carpool line' only. Parking and walk ins ARE NOT ALLOWED.
- Staff are unable to take your child out of your carseat, or buckle them into their carseat. You will need to step out, buckle/unbuckle them and help them in and out of the car. **Please wear a mask during carpool times.** During pick up and drop off, staff will always be wearing masks .
- During morning carpool, the Morahs will wait outside their classroom door within the covered walkway to maintain a safe social distance. Our toddler Morahs, and office staff will be the ones to take the children from the car and

bring them to the inside of the walkway, and supervise them as they meet their morahs at their classroom doors.

- During afternoon carpool, the Morahs will walk the children to their cars as their names are called.

-All children will be screened before being allowed into class.

## **Tuition Policy**

-Chai Tots is committed to a full school year of growth and development, fun and excitement. Our intentions are to be physically IN school for the school year 20-21.

-We understand that this may not be in our control as the uncertainties of COVID 19 continue to change our lives and schedules.

-Considering the money, time, effort, energy, work, contracts with teachers and staff and commitment from our staff and families we have created the following policies for this year:

### **As of 07/06/2020**

– Non Refundable security fee must be paid by July 15th.

-No additional COVID-19 Surcharges or increases in tuition will be applied.

-10 equally divided payments of your yearly tuition are due on the first of each month from August 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

-The first payment will be charged on August 1st and each remaining payment on the 1st of the month.

-As long as Chai Tots is running per CDC and DCF guidelines, no refunds will be given due to a child's illness, temporary quarantine mandate, (2 weeks or less) inability or change of mind to attend school.

-We have the right to suspend or close school at any time due to new health updates or guidance from CDC or DCF or other.

-We do not plan on closing school unless MANDATED by the DCF or CDC.

We are not governed by the same laws as public school and reserve the right to remain open even when public school is closed.

-If we suspend or close school due to COVID-19 or any related issues of COVID-19, there will be no refunds for the first 10 consecutive school days of closure.

-If we must remain closed indefinitely- longer than the 10 school days-payments will be reimbursed, less 10 percent to help us cover costs.

-If school is temporarily closed due to COVID 19 we will close for the recommended amount of days without reimbursement to anyone or commitment to adding days to the end of the school year. (that's an option that we will look into when the time comes. If any were to be scheduled, they would essentially reduce the number of days eligible for the refund mentioned above.)

### **ZOOM or distanced learning options:**

We recognize the challenge of operating our early childhood program via distance learning. We also understand the benefits of continuing the children's education even if it's via zoom, therefore, we would offer select, optional programming, such as daily ZOOM with teachers, project packets, videos for students to watch at their own pace, and daily circle time.

There is the option to charge a reduced fee for those interested in continued distanced learning.

### **School Calendar 20-21**

Click [here](#) for the school calendar.

-Dates and events are subject to change.

-If when the time comes we are unable to meet for social events such as parent teacher conferences, we will set up mandatory ZOOM meetings.

### **Waiver**

If you are uncomfortable with sending your child to school with these precautions in place, please keep your child at home. These precautions are in place to provide every effort to keep every child and family safe; however, this does not provide any guarantee of any kind. As the parent of the child attending, you assume all risks associated with allowing your child to begin attending. That being said we are doing everything we can in our power to keep every child safe during this time. Working together during this time is important.

Each family must sign and return the waiver before the start of school

For PDF of [Waiver click here](#)

### **THANK YOU**

We are blessed to have YOU as part of our school family!

We are grateful to be able to open 'in person' with your support, dedication and love. We know these are uncertain times and we appreciate your compliance with our new guidelines.

As a team we can do anything! We will get through this!

Sincerely,

Endi Tennenhaus