



Faith Early Learning Academy

2610 W. Fair Ave.,
Lancaster, OH 43130

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Dear Parents,

January 18, 2021

As Faith Early Learning Academy prepares to welcome your child into our program. We want you to know that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of your child(ren). The COVID-19 pandemic is scary for adults and is hard for children to understand. We want to create an environment where you feel safe leaving your child and where your child feels safe. Based on ODJFS rules and recommendations, you and your child will see changes to our program. Some of those changes are outlined below. You can also find pandemic child care resources for families at:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>.

In accordance with ODJFS regulations, you will see:

- Handwashing requirements have increased for staff and children. Your child(ren) will be required to wash their hands upon arrival and prior to going home for the day.
- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, they will be isolated and sent home immediately. Your child cannot return to our program until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If a child has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, they cannot return to care until they have completed isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with our local health department.
- We will work with the local health department if we encounter any confirmed cases to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

In addition to the licensing requirements listed above, the Faith Early Learning Academy board has made the following changes to our procedures.

- Only 1 adult will be permitted to enter the building with their child(ren) for drop off and pick up.
- All persons who enter the building, including staff, will have their temperature taken before going past the office. If one person in a family unit has a temperature above 100.0 degrees, then no one from that family will be able to stay for the day.
- Any child who is sent home due to illness will need to have a doctor's excuse clearing them of illness before they are permitted to return to our care.

- Parents are permitted to walk their child(ren) to their classroom but are not permitted to enter the room.
- Each classroom will be assigned to a specific restroom in the building to limit group contact.
- Restrooms will be sanitized between uses.
- Classroom equipment will be sanitized daily. Any toy that was mouthed or exposed to bodily fluids will be removed immediately from use until sanitized.
- Doorknobs, tables, light switches, and other commonly touched items will be sanitized throughout the day.
- A rotation for gross motor play has been created to limit group contact.
- Playground structures will be sanitized daily.
- Gym equipment will be sanitized after each class.
- Children are not allowed to be given temperature reducing medication prior to coming to the center and if we discover they have been, you will face disciplinary action. While we understand that it will be difficult for you to be off work if your child is ill, the health and safety of our children and staff is of utmost importance. Bringing your child(ren) to the center when ill could jeopardize the health of all in the center and result in us needing to shut down the center again. Children cannot be given medication to reduce fevers before coming and if they let us know they have been, as they do tell us, you will be contacted to pick them up immediately and could face permanent removal from the center.
- Staff members will wear masks. All children in kindergarten and older will be required to wear a mask in the building. Mask breaks will be taken. Masks are not permitted to be worn during vigorous activity, outdoor play, or nap. If you choose to have your younger child wear a mask, we will do our best to have them keep it on, but please know that we cannot force them to wear it if they take it off.

Along with the board decisions, there are a few things that we are asking of you.

- Bring a labeled water bottle each day, as we have turned off the water fountains in the building.
- Communicate with the office any suspicion of illness or exposure to COVID-19.
- Please make sure your emergency contact information is up to date and correct.
- Notify the office by 9AM if your child will be absent for the day and the reason for the absence.

Prior to your child's first day with us, please drop off the following items to the center so that we can get them sanitized and stored. No child will be allowed to return until all items have been received.

- 2 extra sets of clothes per child, including underwear and socks.
- Items from the school supply list included in this packet.

The staff has been working to make Faith Early Learning Academy as safe as possible. We have talked extensively about what needs to happen daily to ensure the health and safety of the children. We will be closely monitoring everyone for signs of illness and cleaning diligently to lessen exposure to germs.

We ask that you help us by monitoring your own children and relaying any suspicion of illness to the office, so that together, we can lessen the need for closure.

We are looking forward to your child joining or returning to the Preschool & Prekindergarten program here at Faith Early Learning Academy. If you have any questions about the information included in this letter, please ask. We are here to help you and your child be comfortable and feel safe in our program. We look forward to helping your child learn and grow during these critical developmental years.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Herron, Director