



First Baptist Preschool

Pandemic Care Plan:

Guidelines & Procedures

to provide

Care for Young Children

During the Covid-19 Pandemic Health Crisis

Effective August 1, 2021

Never in our history has the mission of First Baptist Preschool been more critical than it is today. The days ahead are uncertain and will present many new challenges. We must face these challenges together, trusting that God is with us and adapting best practices as necessary, to deliver safe, loving care that parents can count on.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on you own understanding;
in all your ways know him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3: 5-6 CSB

Mission: Limit & Minimize Exposure

What follows is a multi-faceted approach to providing care for young children during a pandemic crisis. We recognize that mitigating exposure to this virus is critical to the wellbeing of our children, staff, and families. Doing so will require multiple strategies to:

- 1. Limit person to person contact**
- 2. Minimize contagion brought from home**
- 3. Manage possible contamination throughout the day**

None of these strategies are 100% effective on their own and some are more effective than others, but each piece of the mitigation puzzle works in concert with the others to increase protection and decrease viral load when exposure does occur.

Changes to Operating Procedures

(in Accordance with VDOE, VDH & CDC Guidelines)

1. Social Distancing: Limit Person to Person Contact

In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education, we will implement social distancing in the following ways:

- Limit school hours (no Before/After Care) to eliminate mixing of classrooms
- Limit adults in the building to only working staff
- Implement “Front Door” drop-off and pick-up
- No mixing of groups during the day, including on the playground
- Maintain consistent teachers for each group throughout the day
- Provide classroom centers and activities that encourage individual play
- Assist children in learning social distancing strategies
- Manage transitions to eliminate groups mixing in the hallway

School Day

- Our goal is to create safe, self-contained classroom groups. To maintain the integrity of each group, we will limit exposure to additional staff throughout the day.

Arrival/Dismissal

- Arrival time is between 8:40 and 9:00. All parents will have to park and walk their child to the building. The 5-day pre-k, transitional kindergarten and the kindergarten children will come up the back stairway to enter the upper level of the building. All other children will come up the ramp to enter the upper level.
- When you drop off your child in the breezeway by the office doors, you are stating that your child is well and healthy.
- Dismissal will happen at the same door as drop-off, where you will sign your child out for the day. Repeated and frequent failure to pick-up within your designated time window (12:00-12:15 for preschool/1:00-1:10 for K) will lead to late fees.

Playground

Using temporary fencing, the playground has been divided into two sections. In general, two groups will be on the playground at the same time, with one group on each section at a time.

- Materials and equipment in each area will be sanitized daily.
- Groups will alternate sections each week so children will have the benefit of playing on all play structures and equipment.

2. Minimize Contagion Brought from Home

Daily Health Checks for Staff

- Staff will complete a daily health statement.
- Staff with any symptom of illness will be told to stay home or sent home immediately.

Daily Health Checks for Children

- When parents drop children off each day, they are stating that their child is not exhibiting any of the following symptoms. Children with any of the following symptoms will be excluded from care.
 - Fever of 100 or higher (This is the established policy at FBP.)
 - Consistent coughing (more than just a few times per hour and/or is atypical for the child)

- Shortness of breath
- Runny/stuffy nose (as opposed to sometimes needs to be wiped) that is atypical for the child
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pink Eye
- Lethargy/Extreme fatigue
- Any undiagnosed rash
- Combination of mild to moderate symptoms such as sore throat, headache, body aches and “just not acting like themselves”

How long to stay home will depend on symptoms, diagnosis, and direction from the child’s physician and/or the Virginia Department of Health. ****Your child may return to school when he/she has been symptom-free for 48 hours without medication and has not been in close contact with anyone who has COVID.*** Children must also be excluded from care if a household member has a known or suspected case of Covid-19.

Masks

Staff and children have the option of wearing a mask or not, subject to change under state government guidelines. We will provide a space in each classroom where children can “take a mask break” when needed.

- Young children have difficulty maintaining social distance. We have found that wearing masks helps to control illness.
- Please provide 1 extra mask as back-up. This can be placed in your child’s Ziplock bag of extra clothing.
- Masks should be washed daily.

Lunches, Snacks & Water Bottles

- Children will bring their snacks to school each day. (Kindergarteners may choose to bring lunch versus snack.) As usual, children will eat in their classroom. Social distancing strategies, such as staggering where children sit at tables, will be in place.
- Children should bring water bottles to school, provided it is properly labeled with his/her name. The hallway water fountain will not be used this year.

- Children may bring their lunch in a box that can be easily cleaned. Children may also choose to bring lunch in a disposable paper bag. Be sure to label the lunchbox/bag with your child's name.

3. Steps to Manage Possible Contamination Throughout the Day

- Toys, equipment, and surfaces will be sanitized regularly throughout the day.
- Teachers received extensive training in appropriate hand washing and cleaning practices.
- Children and teachers will frequently and thoroughly wash hands: when soiled, before and after using the restroom or diapering, and before and after eating, before going outside and when they come back inside.
- Gloves will be worn as needed.
- Sick children will be isolated immediately, in an area where sight and sound supervision can be maintained, while waiting to be picked up by a parent. A separate isolation area has been created for this purpose.

“What will happen when we have a case of COVID-19 in the school?”

- When we have a positive test result in a child, staff member or immediate member of either's household, then we will immediately notify the local health department and VDOE and follow their instructions.
- Parents and staff should anticipate that either their child's classroom or the whole school may be quarantined for 14 days. This is the current guidance from VDH.
- Please notify the school as soon as possible if you have a case of COVID-19 in your household or a known exposure.
- Please follow social distancing guidelines when you are away from school to help keep all of us safe!

Tuition and Enrollment

If FBP closes temporarily (individual class or school-wide) due to COVID-19, tuition will still be expected. Teachers will send home virtual lesson plans during that time. However, if FBP must close for the remainder of the school year, parents are not responsible for tuition for those months. May tuition refunding will be assessed at the time of the closure, so at this time a refund is not guaranteed.

Summary and Miscellaneous Information

- Children will bring a snack or lunch each day. This may be packed in a lunchbox that can be easily cleaned or disposable lunch bag.
- Parents are stating that their child is well and not exhibiting any signs/symptoms of illness.
- Children should bring a change of clothes and an extra mask in a Ziploc bag labeled with their name.
- Masks are currently optional for children and parents while on school grounds. Please follow traffic pattern, park in designated spaces, and practice social distancing.