Mask Wearing Partnership
August 24, 2020

Mask wearing is currently only required for children when they are 5 years old. Mask wearing is a new practice to children that will be initiated at home as each family may differ in their need, interest, and their child’s tolerance. During this period of mask wearing and preparation, the practice and education that follows outlines a close partnership between parents, caregivers and administration.

Administration will:
- Initiate a conversation with parents of children turning 5, prior to their child’s 5th birthday. We will reach out when they are 4 years 10 months to talk to parents about our mask wearing plans for their child and build a partnership to move forward together.
- Lead the introduction of the mask wearing practice at the Center following a conversation with the family and the caregivers.
- Welcome families to reach out to the administration and indicate their interest in having their child wear a face mask at the Center.
- Speak with the families who chose face mask wearing for children under 5 years in order to understand:
  - Their goals for face mask wearing, communication about their child’s tolerance for mask wearing as the family has indicated, and next steps if the child isn’t reaching the family’s goals.
  - Identify a plan for introducing mask wearing to families of children soon to be 5, if needed.
- Support children and families in their understanding that this will always be a “work in progress” toward the ideal: comfort with wearing a mask, ease at the Center in play, and the ability to mask wear for as long as needed.

Parents will:
- Reach out for or respond to a conversation with the Center informing us of their mask wearing practices with their, soon to be 5-year-old child (4 years 10 months old). This is important for collaboration in order to meet the State requirements at the Center.
- Initiate a conversation to address their plans for their child to wear a mask at the Center in collaboration with the administration when their child is younger than 4 years 10 months old.
- Practice mask wearing at home for extended periods of time and communicate with the Center about the length of time their child has worn a mask, what they understand of donning and doffing protocols and the language you use around mask wearing.
- Communicate how you want the Center to inform you of your child’s mask wearing (phone call, email, daily note, etc).
- Supply a bag of clean masks daily, and a bag for soiled/worn masks.
- Meet with the caregivers and administrators when a meeting is requested.
Caregivers will:
- Work collaboratively with families through the administration’s lead to support mask wearing as required by the State or chosen by the family.
- Assist children with proper mask wearing protocols (hand washing, donning and doffing, mask storage, etc.)
- Will wear a mask/face covering as well and model proper mask wearing procedures.
- Communicate to the parents in the way they have requested and when they have requested about when a child does not wear a mask.
- Meet with the parents at any point a meeting is requested.