

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, the practice and education that follows outlines a close partnership between parents, caregivers and administration.

Administration will:

- Initiate a conversation with families when their child is 4 years 10 months old, just before their 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:
 - o how they feel about mask wearing at the Center.
 - o how they plan to reach out to the Center.
 - o Identify a plan for introducing mask wearing to families of children soon to be 5, if needed.
- Offer support and resources to families who are interested in mask wearing, including: how to wear 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 to be reached (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:

- † 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.