



Nature's Pointe Cooperative Preschool
Pandemic Policy
2020-2021

This plan will be in place for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, from September 2020. Because the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 are constantly changing, this is a fluid plan that will be reviewed and updated weekly. We will follow guidelines and recommendations put forth by the CDC, ISDH, Hamilton County Health Department, ICPC, and the local school districts.

Our objective is to provide a safe environment for our students, families, and staff while offering a developmentally appropriate play-based program. Our students will learn, grow, and experience through play and nature, using the outdoor classroom as much as possible.

The Nature's Pointe Constitution and Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, Health and Safety Guidelines, and ICPC Statement of Standards still apply, except where there is a difference with the Pandemic Policy. In such situations, this Pandemic Policy will override other policies and guidelines.

School Calendar

We will continue to follow the Hamilton Southeastern school district (HSE) for all holidays and school closings. We will begin school the Tuesday after Labor Day and end the week before Memorial Day. We will start school in person (as detailed in the Class Schedule section below) even though HSE is beginning virtually.

If the state or local school districts have mandatory closings, we will continue to offer virtual meetings to students and parents so they can stay connected. Teachers will also put together starter kits with supplies and engage the children in activities using these kits.

Face Masks

After much research on face masks in early childcare, we have decided to not require masks for students. Young children need to see facial cues and expressions to communicate, and it may be challenging to recognize and understand one another. It will also be very difficult for teachers to make sure the children keep their masks on properly and are not constantly touching them, discarding them, taking other students' masks, etc. It will potentially become a disciplinary issue, which we want to avoid.

Per the Governor's mandate, staff and participating adults will be required to wear a face mask when they are indoors or social distancing is not possible outdoors. Although we encourage participating adults to wear their own masks, we will have disposable masks available. When possible, staff and participating adults will wash hands before putting on their face coverings to be in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Arrival

Parents and/or caregivers will pull up to Door 1 and help their child out of the car. Teachers will greet students and perform a health check. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering. In order to limit the number of people in the building, only staff and participating adults will be allowed in the building each day. Exceptions for visitors such as therapists will need to be coordinated with the President and staff.

Health Screening/Illness Policy

Everyone entering the building must be screened, including staff, participating adults, and students. The health screening will consist of a brief verbal symptoms check. Temperatures will also be checked with an infrared thermometer. Families will be asked the following question:

- Is the student or anyone in the family ill or exhibiting symptoms such as cough, fever over 100.4, or a sore throat?

Responses will be documented for the Hamilton County Health Department to use for contact tracing purposes. If a student or adult exhibits a fever or other symptoms, they will not be able to attend school. Admittance will always be per staff discretion.

We will be following the [ISDH guidelines](#) for determining when students, staff, or participating adults can return to school after an illness. The following guidelines will apply to students, staff, participating adults and all members of their households:

Untested-Without Alternate Explanation

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved)
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Untested-Alternate Explanation

If members experience symptoms but have not been tested for COVID-19, they may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fever)
- They have a note from their healthcare provider authorizing their return

Tested Positive-Symptomatic

Persons who experience symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

- Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved)
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared OR the individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart

Tested Positive-Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider.

Close Contact-Symptomatic

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19. If an individual becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic scenarios. The individual must quarantine for 14 days after contact with the COVID-19 positive person even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms.

Close Contact-Asymptomatic

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19. The individual must quarantine for 14 days before returning to school and must remain symptom free. If the individual develops symptoms, then refer to the symptomatic scenarios.

If children begin to exhibit symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated from the other children and wait in a separate room with an adult until the child's parent and/or caregiver arrives.

Travel

We request that staff and families complete travel plans 14 days prior to beginning school. If families maintain travel within this time period, please determine if your vacation locale qualifies as a "High COVID-19 rate" area (see below for details) and self-quarantine if indicated.

During the school year, the school highly recommends that students and staff members who travel to locations with high COVID-19 rates self quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. "High COVID-19 rates" is currently defined as an area with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a state with 10% or higher positivity rate over the same time period. An interactive US map with this information can be found here: globalepidemics.org (the orange and red zones are the "High COVID-19" locations).

Planning for Substitutes

If a teacher or a member of the teacher's household contracts COVID-19, we will have a long-term substitute for each class. The teachers and board members will plan with available parents or consider hiring a substitute.

Pickup

After class, teachers and/or participating adults will lead students to Door 1. Students will use hand sanitizer before leaving the building. Parents and/or caregivers will drive up to the door and help their child into the vehicle. Teachers or participating adults will not be responsible for securing children into car seats.

Class Schedule

Even though by September the state is projected to be in Stage 5 of reopening, we want to begin the school year with stricter guidelines. We will review and evaluate this policy regularly. The plan for each class is slightly different because of developmental differences in the children's ages.

In order to reduce the number of people in the building at the same time, we will keep the classes separate and begin the school year with only one class in the building each day.

Pandas

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30-12:00, at NPCP

Wednesday: 9:30-12:00, Forest Day, off-site

Online-TBD. We will discuss with parents about offering the enrichment groups portion of the Pandas class virtually.

The Pandas class will have one participating adult in class on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 2 participating adults on Thursdays. We encourage parents to participate for a week at a time, if possible, to limit the number of different people in the building each week. This could change depending on the number of students enrolled and ratio requirements. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided, and students will have an individually wrapped snack at school. The snack will be provided by the school to limit the items brought to school.

Pandas will spend as much time as possible (weather permitting) in the outdoor classroom. Indoors, a reduced number of materials will be offered. This will limit the surfaces and toys that will need to be sanitized. Participating parents will help teachers clean and sanitize after class.

Koalas

Monday 9:30-12:00, at NPCP

Thursday: Online

The Koalas class will have two participating adults each week. This could change depending on the number of students enrolled and ratio requirements. Students will have an individually wrapped snack at school. The snack will be provided by the school to limit the items brought to school. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Koalas will spend as much time as possible (weather permitting) in the outdoor classroom. Indoors, a reduced number of materials will be offered. This will limit the surfaces and toys that will need to be sanitized. Participating parents will help teachers clean and sanitize after class.

Teddies

Tuesday: Online

Friday 9:30-11:30, at NPCP

The Teddies class will have two participating adults each week. This could change depending on the number of students enrolled and ratio requirements. Teddies will not have a snack at school, but water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Teddies will spend as much time as possible (weather permitting) in the outdoor classroom. Indoors, a reduced number of materials will be offered. This will limit the surfaces and toys that will need to be sanitized. Participating parents will help teachers clean and sanitize after class.

Cubs

TBD

All Classes

Where possible, students will use supplies and/or materials that are designated just for them. Dress up clothes and other cloth toys will not be used.

We will spend as much time as possible in the outdoor classroom. Children will need to be dressed appropriately and will have multiple sets of clothing, including socks, shoes, and diapers to be kept at school.

Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently and throughout the day.

Snack/Lunch Policy

Teddies will not have a snack at school. Koalas and Pandas will have individually wrapped packages (example, fruit pouches or packaged apple slices.). Snacks will be nut-free and meet the dietary requirements of the students in the classroom. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided. Students must dispose of the cup immediately after drinking.

The Pandas school day will be shortened on Wednesdays so they will have a snack instead of lunch as part of their Forest Day.

Online Only Option

We understand that some of our students have family members that are high-risk. If any member is not comfortable sending their child to school, we will offer supply kits and online classes for a reduced tuition fee. This option is only for unique circumstances and will be approved by the board on a case-by-case basis.

In-School Only Option

We understand that some of our students are unable to take part in online classes for various reasons. We will offer an in-school only option, but these students will not receive supply kits (supply kits will be used for online classes). Also, because the school will incur expenses for sanitizing and

PPE, full tuition fees will be charged. This option is only for unique circumstances and will be approved by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Virtual Learning

If the state, health department, or local school districts have mandatory closings, and we have to close as well, we will continue to offer virtual meetings to students and parents so they can stay connected. Teachers will also put together starter kits with supplies and engage the children in activities using these kits.

Classroom Participation

As a cooperative preschool, parent participation has always been an integral part of our philosophy. However, we understand that some families are high-risk and are not comfortable in the classroom environment. These families will not be penalized, and we will work with them on a case by case basis.

Babysitting

To limit the number of people in the building during the school day, we will not offer babysitting on site. Teachers and class reps will plan other options for families that need child care while participating in class.

Cleaning Procedures

In order to limit the number of people in the building during the school day, we will not schedule an Early Return parent. Participating adults will help the teachers clean and disinfect after class.

All hard surfaces, including bathrooms, sinks, light switches, door knobs, chairs, and tables will be disinfected after each class. Toys will also be disinfected daily.

Enrichments

Extra curricular enrichment classes will not be offered on site. We will survey parents to determine interest in virtual classes.

Tuition

Even though we plan to begin the school year with less time on site, we will still incur regular expenses such as rent, payroll, insurance, supplies, outdoor classroom maintenance, etc. We will also have additional costs to purchase snacks, PPE, cleaning supplies, software, etc. Teachers will have classes on site as well as online and will provide starter kits of supplies. Because members will receive many of the benefits of our program, they will be charged 100% tuition. Families can apply for a scholarship if they are experiencing financial difficulties.

Meetings

All meetings, including Board Meetings, Classroom Teacher Orientations, Class Coffees, and Membership Meetings will be held online. Student Meet the Teacher meetings will be in-person and by appointment at school. Details will be communicated by teachers in August.

Parent Ed Events, CPT Class, & Service Hours

CPT Class for new families will be held online. Similarly, we will not have any in-person Parent Ed events. We will offer several opportunities for members to earn service hours while staying physically distant. Members are still required to earn 4 credits of parent ed and 4 service hours.

Fundraising

Although we will not be able to have family social gatherings and fundraising events such as the Back to School Bash, we will continue fundraising through flower sales, silent auction, the mulch fundraiser, dine-to-donates, T-shirt sales, and other opportunities.

Membership Tours

Because cooperative preschool is such a unique model, we still encourage interested families to tour the school and meet with teachers. Due to the safety concerns because of COVID-19, an in-person tour will not be required, and phone or video tours will be offered. All visitors will need to schedule an appointment and be health screened before entering the building.

Resources

Indiana-DOE Guidelines for Reopening Schools

https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Indiana Child Care Centers Guidance

https://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Updated_Child_Care_Guidance_FINAL.pdf

https://backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN_BackOnTrack-IN_Guidelines-ChildCare.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1D1EY1v5TkDb63A4WPjg4vyKDkTLaHazrlbET5AmOecwvqzB7_zOFnXP4

Indiana-Cleaning & Sanitation Guidelines

https://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Cleaning_sanitizing_guidance_%203-2020.pdf

Indiana-COVID-19 Checklist for Child Care Centers

https://www.in.gov/fssa/files/Childcare_Programs-COVID-19_Checklist.pdf

CDC Guidelines for Schools

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf> (childcare facilities start around page 40)

EPA Approved Cleaners

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>