



Birchland Tree House COVID19 Policies and Protocols

Physical Distancing

While we are thrilled to be able to see our families again, we are bound to maintain a level of physical distancing where possible. This begins right at arrival time.

Unfortunately, we do need to save our hugs and handshakes for a safer time but will be full of smiles and excited waves! Each educator will aim to connect with our children through eye level, personalized and joyful greetings. We will forge unique forms of connecting with minimal physical contact as we continue down this new path.

We will work with our families to plan arrival times as we proceed, but please note that when there is more than one family arriving at the same time, we do need to implement a 2 metre separation. Please knock before entering and the staff will open the door. This may require that families wait outside should a family already be present in the cubby room of the centre.

Upon admittance to the cubby room, you will be provided with hand sanitizer and a verbal health check with one of the staff.

All parents need to wear a mask before entering the building. Teachers will also require a mask when communicating with parents.

We ask that you wait for a teacher to bring children to their classrooms.

All of this may take some time, so please come to the centre a few minutes early so you have time to wait. We also ask that you bring an umbrella if it is raining. There is not enough room undercover for everyone to wait.

We anticipate that things will continue to change, and we will evolve and adapt as they do.

We will not allow non-essential visits within our centres at this time.

Access to the Centre

Families will access the centre at the entrance doors, and we ask that you wait outside in a line closest to the building you are entering. Once you have come in the front doors, we ask that you knock on the door (closest to the front doors) of your child's classroom. There will be a table at the entrance to each classroom. Before your child(ren) enters the classroom, temperature will be checked by a staff member then be put in record. Child(ren) will immediately be sent back home, if their temperature is greater than **37.5°C**, runny nose or dry cough.

Any evidence of symptoms will prohibit you and your child from entering the classroom or the facility, and you will be advised to contact 811 for further directions. Once there is no evidence of symptoms, the teacher will sign in your child(ren) then send your child to wash their hands and put away their belongings.

Classroom

Our classrooms have been re-organized to allow for multiple small group interactions. Activities that were traditionally entire group activities, like circle time and mealtimes, will be replaced with small group activities to assist physical distancing and Circle time will be well spaced out. Our educators have also been empowered to program activities that provide quality learning and engagement while ensuring space between the children. The physical space requirements for licensed child care settings have sufficient space to support physical distancing (maintaining a distance of 2 metres between each other) between staff without reducing the number of children in care at any one time. Staff will be minimizing the frequency of direct physical contact with children and encouraging children to minimize physical contact with each other. Staff will be maintaining physical distancing from one another and wear their masks at all time.

Windows and doors in the centre will be open to ensure adequate ventilation.

Sensory tables and sensory activities that involve shared mediums have been removed or reorganized with materials that promote individual experiences. Materials that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected, such as soft toys and porous materials, have been removed from the classrooms. The only exception we can make to this is a comfort item for napping where necessary, and these will be stored in an individual bag. Sleeping mats and cots will be placed further apart. Children should not be allowed to prepare or serve food so any baking will be teacher directed in the classrooms. Bedding laundry will be sent home more frequently.

We must prohibit items brought from home at this time.

Outside Activities

We will be spending lots of time outside, including learning activities, going on walks and playing on the playgrounds. Playgrounds are a safe environment and we will ensure appropriate hand hygiene before, during and after outdoor play. Transitions to outside will be staggered to eliminate waiting or congestion in common areas, and to limit interaction between the classrooms.

Lunch/Snack

Children and staff can bring their own reusable food and snacks to the facility for their own personal use. We ask you to provide lunch and snacks, using ice packs and an insulated lunch bag. Children and staff should not share communal food from home, drinks or any personal items.

We will limit the number of children per table to ensure spacing between them. If we need to, we will stagger meal and snack times to ensure spacing between the children.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of the centre will occur daily. Cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will take place at least twice throughout the day. We will also acquire deep cleaning and disinfection of all three buildings every Sunday. These include doorknobs, light switches, faucet handles, tables, counters, chairs and toys etc.

Regular and frequent hand washing by our staff members will be role-modelled for the children and encouraged throughout the day. Children will be required to wash their hands at multiple times throughout the day, including arrival time, after outside time, before and after eating, and after toileting. Staff will wash their hands and supervise the children washing their hands for at least 20 seconds using plain soap and water. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19. If sinks are not available (staff and children are outside) supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, may be considered.

Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, are not needed in the childcare setting, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work. Staff will wear gloves when cleaning blood or bodily fluids and when diapering. Staff will wash their hands before putting on gloves and after taking them off. Staff are required to wear masks at all times in class.

Nap mats will be disinfected after each use as per our usual routine.

Symptom Monitoring and Suspected Illness

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to the childcare centre. There will be a verbal check up by one of the staff members, each day when you arrive. We must conduct daily checks for respiratory illness at drop off by asking parents and caregivers to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold. We will also have a designated area set-up within our centre that will be able to safely house a child who should exhibit symptoms of illness while at the centre. If your child becomes symptomatic with any illness throughout the day, we will call you to come and pick them up. Should your child engage in behaviour that is significantly atypical as to perhaps indicate that they are unwell, we will also contact you.

All children cannot come to care if they have one or more of the followings:

- Fever
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Breathing difficulties (breathing fast or working hard to breathe)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days (Individuals who are not vaccinated)

Supervisors will daily assess other staff for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill. Manager will daily assess the supervisors for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19.

If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved. We are also able to follow the guidance of 811 if you are not able to see a doctor.

If a staff develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home and/or self-isolate for up to 5 days (if vaccinated) or 10 days (if not vaccinated) from the onset of symptoms or until all symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. A COVID19 test or professional advice will also be accepted, and the worker will be permitted to come back to work. Each circumstance can vary, and all staff will need to discuss what the best approach is before returning to work.

Vaccinators/Non-Vaccinators Exposures/Positive

If your child(ren) is vaccinated for COVID19, please provide a document to the office.

If your child(ren) has been directly exposed to COVID19 (vaccinated and non-

vaccinated), the child(ren) must self-monitor for any COVID19 symptoms and can continue come to care.

If your child(ren) has been tested positive for COVID19 and is vaccinated, the child(ren) cannot come to the facility for five calendar days. If your child(ren) has tested positive and is not vaccinated, the child(ren) cannot enter the facility for 10 days.

**Although we have provided a significant number of days your child(ren) cannot come to care, we highly suggest not to bring your child(ren) to care until they no longer have any COVID symptoms.

If your child(ren) begins to develop any COVID symptoms, we require them not to come to care at least 5 days. Your child(ren) can come to care if they no longer have any symptoms.

Fees during pandemic / communicable disease closures

In the event of a short-term closure due to a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak (less than 30 days), fees are due and payable as per usual operations. No refunds or reimbursements will be taking place in event of short-term closure due to pandemic or an outbreak.

Please be aware that all of these policies and procedures are subject to

change and these alterations are made for the best in minimization of spreading COVID19.

I _____, parent/guardian of _____ agree to
(First & Last Names) (Child's Name)

all the terms and conditions of Birchland Tree House Play Care's COVID19 policies and protocols.

X _____
(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

(Date)