

Dear Early Childhood Families,

We hope this finds you all healthy. Our staff has been working diligently to continue to provide learning and supports for your family during our school closure. Spring Break ends this week and our teachers will spend March 23 and 24 designing lessons, activities and supports for your child during the current closure. We want to provide you a general overview of what you can expect from our staff during this time. Beginning on Wednesday, March 25:

- Each day by 9 a.m., families of children in Preschool and Kids Morning Out will receive an email with a lesson plan or video message for the day. Lesson plans will contain a goal, learning activity, technology link and movement activity. Additionally, you will receive a video from your child's teacher each week so children can continue to connect and provide a sense of normalcy. Links will be included at the bottom of the lesson plan templates that can take you to Channel 9 PBS Toolkit and age-appropriate Virtual Field Trips.
- Early Childhood Special Education teachers will send parents lessons to support the Missouri Early Learning Goals as well as Individual Education Plan Goals. Related service providers will be designing activities as well.
- Parent Educators will reach out to each of their families next week to see how things are going at home and discuss with you how we will continue visits beginning the week of March 30th.
- Parent Educators, Partners in Play teachers and Play-Based Screeners will design fun ideas that you can easily implement using everyday household supplies through our website, email and social media platform.
- Counselors and social workers will develop supports and resources for families who need extra assistance during these times. Additionally, they will provide phone/email consultation for any families who need help speaking with children about current events, challenging behaviors or implementing helpful routines for homeschooling. Please be sure to let us know if you need assistance with any resources.

Families will not be charged tuition/fees for classes during the time we are closed. Any tuition that was prepaid for the month of March will be applied to future tuition when we get back. In the event our school closure extends beyond April 3, we will develop a plan for reimbursement of any prepaid tuition/fees for classes at that time.

We know providing home-based learning for children is a new challenge for many families. Please know what is most important is that your children feel safe and loved. It is more important that they have time playing and feeling connected to their family than learning new academic content. The supports we are offering are not meant to add pressure. They are there if you need them. It's also ok just to cuddle up and read stories, go for a nature walk, build a fort and camp out in your living room, or look at photos of when they were a baby or you were a baby. We will send out additional information about healthy ways to process these changes

with your children in the near future. In the meantime, please know we are all here to support you and we will get through this together.

Take Care,

Elena

Dr. Elena Polson
Director of Early Learning