



Mother of Carmel Childcare Parent Handbook for Childcare during Covid-19

About Us

Mother of Carmel Childcare Centre is operated by The Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We serve families with children from birth to 12 years of age. MOCC works in partnership with families, communities, and other service sectors to provide high quality early learning and child care programs that promote and support education, health, and economic outcomes for families with young children.

Our Team

Our team of professionals includes Supervisors who are Registered Early Childhood Educators. They are responsible for developing and implementing planned and responsive programs implemented by a skilled and caring team of staff. Our staff team includes Registered Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Aides who work together to ensure your child's needs will be met while they are in our care.

We also have an in house Cook, who will ensure your child receives adequate nutrition throughout their time in our care. Our staff have current Standard First Aid and Infant/Child CPR Certification and complete Vulnerable Sector Checks prior to their employment and on regular intervals after employment begins. Registered Early Childhood Educators are in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators. Each person on our team receives training and development on an on-going basis.

Care

We provide care for children from birth to 12 years of age. Your child or children will be placed in age appropriate groupings that allow us to ensure that we can maintain group sizes which meet the outline of expectations from York Region Public Health and physical distancing protocol. This also ensures that we maintain effective health and safety as well as infection prevention and control practices. We will do our best to provide child care for your family, subject to the limitations required by the current circumstances, including Provincial, City, and Public Health directives. We believe every child belongs and will do our best to ensure that your child is welcomed into our centre.

Response to COVID-19

Mother of Carmel Childcare is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of your children, our staff, partners, and the community. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 and base our response and actions on recommendations from York Region Public Health, the Ministry of Health, Health Canada and additional relevant authorities. While infection prevention and control (IPAC) has always been an integral part of our child care culture, we have adapted and enhanced our policies and procedures in response to COVID-19, to mitigate risk and ensure the health and safety of all.

The following practices will be in place:

- Staff will complete a health check screening prior to entry into the facility
- A screening area is isolated at the entrance of the child care centre
- Only one parent can enter the screening area with their child/children, however, only the child will be allowed into the Centre during Pandemic. Parents will not be allowed into the Centre as a control measure.
- Children will be screened before entering the child care centre and monitored throughout the day for COVID-19 related symptoms
- Children will be excluded from care if they develop any symptoms related to COVID-19
- Policies and procedures have been developed specific to COVID-19 in order to increase the health and safety of children, staff and families
- Staff will monitor children to ensure social distancing and infection prevention and control practices are prioritized.
- Staff will receive thorough enhanced infection prevention and control, and health and safety training. Training will be frequently updated and provided to ensure best practices and consistency
- Only one entrance/exit will be used to ensure effective screening practices.
- Procedures will be updated and revised regularly to ensure best practices in accordance with Public Health authorities.

Confidentiality

Every issue and concern will be treated confidentially and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of parents/guardians, children, and staff, except when information must be disclosed for legal reasons (e.g. to the Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, law enforcement authorities or a Children's Aid Society).

For security reasons, and in lieu of the extra measures for health checks in the mornings, and further, to ensure there is proper supervision of the children at all times, we ask that you make certain your child is dropped off at the centre prior to 9am during the Pandemic time. This ensures that all staff are available for the children.

Drop-Off Procedure

To ensure health and safety as well as stringent infection prevention and control practices, we will receive your child at the front entrance of the child care centre. At this time, our staff will greet you and health screen you, and your child. We will also receive and disinfect belongings at this time. Only your child will be permitted to enter the Centre as indicated by York Region Public Health and is an infection control measure. We understand that this may be unsettling; however, this step will ensure that the childcare setting remains free of infection. This practice is used to ensure physical distancing protocol.

Pick-Up Procedure

Please ring the bell outside the main entrance. A staff member will greet you and bring your child to you. Please wait outside the Centre for your child. This limits opportunity for infection as well as is an expectation of York Region Public Health. As at drop-off, this practice is used to ensure physical distancing protocol.

When Your Child is Sick

This is critical to ensure the health of your child as well as those who are more vulnerable to infection. Staff will complete a basic health check and screening to ensure your child is asymptomatic when they arrive. Your child will also be monitored throughout the day. **If your child is showing ill symptoms at home (e.g. sore throat,**

stomach ache, headache, cough, lethargy, change in appetite) your child should not attend care and should remain home and isolate for 14 days.

If symptoms persist on the 14th day, please contact the supervisor for further direction. If your child becomes sick at the centre, they will be separated in an isolation room and supervised by one of our staff members. We will notify you to pick up your child. If it is appropriate and feasible, we will place a mask on your child. If your child requires immediate medical attention, your child will be taken to the hospital by ambulance and examined by a legally qualified medical practitioner. If you or your child are being managed by Public Health, (e.g., confirmed cases of COVID-19, household contacts of cases) follow instructions from Public Health to determine when to return to the facility.

Medication

Our staff will only administer prescription medication. Prescription medication must be provided in the original bottle/packaging, clearly labeled with your child's name, and instructions for administering. Parents must complete and sign the appropriate medication administration form before the medication can be administered by our staff.

In the interest of Covid-19 and fever being a key symptom of the virus, we will not administer any fever reducing medication. (Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, etc...) Should your child run a low grade fever, your child will be isolated with supervision, and you will be contacted to pick up your child.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play time will be used to support our efforts to maintain physical distance requirements and support children's immune systems. It is important that children be dressed for various types of weather to ensure they can actively participate in the outdoor program. Please ensure that adequate and suitable clothing and footwear is provided as well as individually labeled sunscreen.

Clothing and Personal Belongings

Please provide us with everything your child requires on a daily basis. This includes diapers, diaper cream, bottles, soothers, indoor and outdoor clothing. Stuffed toys and other soft toys are not recommended as they can easily become soiled and trap germs. Public Health has directed us to remove these items from the classrooms.

As an end note, we ask for your patience and understanding as we embark on this new experience together. It is a learning process for all of us and if we work together, we will get through it.

God bless, you and stay healthy.
Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Mother of Carmel Childcare Centre



Prayer to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

*O Beautiful Flower of Carmel,
most fruitful vine, splendor of
heaven, holy and singular,
who brought forth the Son of
God, still ever remaining a
pure virgin, assist us in our
necessity! O Star of the Sea,
help and protect us! Show us
that you are our Mother! Our
Lady of Mt. Carmel, pray for
us!*

www.thePoweroftheRosary.com