The Little School COVID-19 Safety Policy (DRAFT version as of May 27, 2020)

The Little School will be following the protocols required by Gov. Kemp’s Executive Order, Reviving A Healthy Georgia (5/12/20), which itemizes 13 measures (pages 22-23) for all child care facilities and the CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President’s Plan for Opening America Up Again (5/17/20), and adhering to Georgia Dept. for Early Care and Learning Guidelines. The SCDS policy incorporates those measures as follows:

Hours of Operation, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Our operating hours will return to normal as restrictions are lifted on the increased amount of hygiene procedures and the reduced class sizes we must abide by to ensure the health of our children, their families, and our teachers.

Health Screening
All children, faculty, staff, and parents will have their temperature checked as well as answer a series of health-related questions before being allowed to enter the school buildings. If any faculty or staff member has a fever of 100.00 or higher and/or exhibits signs of illness, they will not be allowed to stay for the workday.

If any child, faculty, or staff member registers a fever of 100.0 or higher and/or exhibits symptoms of illness, such as but not limited to: sore throat, excessive or persistent coughing, body aches or difficulty breathing they will be asked to leave the school and remain out for 14 days unless a medical clearance is provided by a physician indicating the presenting symptoms are not related to a possible COVID-19 diagnosis.

Staff Training
SCDS staff will be trained on how to identify symptoms of illness in children and other staff members, the proper processes for removing a potentially ill person, and the infection mitigation procedures to perform in such an event.

Drop-off
Family members will escort their child or children to the outdoor designated area, which will be marked to allow for proper distancing. Once the health screening has been passed, the floater assigned to the child’s classroom will escort them into the building. All floaters will wear face coverings.

We ask that parents drop off no later than 9:00 a.m. If this is not possible, please proceed to the main building and ring the doorbell to summon staff who will perform the health screening required for admission.

Mid-day Screenings
All children will have their temperature checked after their naptime and at any time during the day if they feel warm to the touch or are exhibiting signs of illness. Any child with a fever shall be separated from the group immediately and must leave the facility as soon as practicable.

Suspicion of COVID-19
If a child registers a fever of 100.0 or higher at any time during the day, the family will be notified and should make arrangements to have the child picked up from school within the hour. The child will be placed in a supervised isolation area until pick-up.

Handwashing and Sanitation
There will be frequent washing of hands throughout the day with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer will be used, with supervision, in situations where hand washing is not available.
Only toys and materials that can be washed will be available in the classroom. Toys from home will not be allowed in school. Teachers will supervise playing with classroom materials to ensure that items which may have been sneezed or coughed on or placed in children’s mouths are put in soapy water with diluted bleach to be cleaned before other children play with them.

All outdoor play structures and toys will be wiped down after a class has left the playground.

Personal Protection Equipment

All staff will wear face coverings whenever social distancing is not possible, including within classrooms. In addition, floaters will be assigned to a subset of classrooms to prevent cross-contamination. Teachers will use gloves for diaper changing and pottying; food preparation and serving; and when dealing with any injuries or health situations.

Due to numerous difficulties associated with requiring children to wear a face covering, we will not require children under the age of 5 to wear face coverings. The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) recommends encouraging the use of face coverings in teachers and children but does not require them. The term "when feasible" was put in the recommendation for the use of face coverings primarily because DECAL realizes young children will not comply with set guidelines.

Pick-up

Our current closing time is 5:00 p.m. however families can begin picking up their children at any time during the day. If pick-up occurs before 4:00 p.m. please proceed to the main building and ring the doorbell. A designated staff member will escort the child from the classroom and perform the health check before the child leaves school.

If a pick-up occurs between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. please proceed to the designated area where drop-off occurred in the morning. A designated staff member will collect the child, perform the health check, and then bring the child to the family member.

If a child has registered a fever of 100.0 or higher or is exhibiting symptoms of illness, the family member will be informed of this information and will not be allowed to return to school for 14 days unless a physician’s note states that the child’s temperature and/or symptoms have no relation to COVID-19.