Our Montessori schools (Absorbent Years Childcare and Montessori Education Centre) are extremely dedicated to not only the investment of the early years, but also the commitment to the health and safety of our school community, which includes our students, staff and families.

Extra measures have been implemented to safeguard the health and well-being of everyone during this pandemic.

**Keeping our school’s safe:**

To help protect our staff, students and their families from COVID-19, all members of our school community must adhere to the following:

* Student’s will be picked up and dropped off by the main entrance of the building in the presence of a staff member.
* All individuals are required to wear face masks/face shields with the exception of those who have a medical condition. Exceptions to not wearing masks also include when 2 meters of distance can be maintained away from others.
* Should students arrive to school late, parents are required to phone the school so that a staff member may arrive to escort the child to his/her classroom.
* Staff will clean and disinfect all door handles regularly, as well as classroom furniture and chairs after each use using a mixture of 1-part bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite) and 9 parts water. This solution will be prepared on a daily basis in the morning.
* Classroom materials will be single use per child and disinfected before and after each use.
* Parents are required to self-assess their health (as well as their children’s) prior to entering the school premises.
* Visitors will not be permitted on site. Only essential visitors are permitted entry into the child care setting.
* School lunches will be catered through Wholesome Kids Catering Company. Outside food will not be permitted during the pandemic.
* School tours will be provided virtually over Google-hang outs or zoom.
* Parent teacher interviews will be held over zoom and phone meetings.
* The centre reserves the right to check the temperature of each individual including, students, parents, staff and visitors prior to entering the school.

**Facility/Parents:**

* Parents will maintain distance in the lobby at all times.
* Parents are required to wear face masks at all times.
* Prior to entering the school premises, parents are required to conduct self-assessment on a daily basis as well as on their child/(ren) to ensure that neither individual is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
* All individuals must self-screen every day before arrival at the centre. Individuals who do not pass the screening are not permitted to attend the program and must stay home.
* Each child’s temperature will be checked upon entering the school. Students who display any symptoms will not be permitted entry. Staff accepting each child will document child’s time of arrival, health check and symptoms observed.
* Students will have their hands washed before commencing their work cycle and regularly throughout the day.
* Child(ren)’s belongings will be sent home on a daily basis for laundering/disinfecting. (i.e. shoes, hats, water-bottles, clothes etc.)
* Sunscreen should be applied on children prior to attending the centre. To minimize contact between staff and students, we will solely be using sunscreen sprays and not hand applied sunscreen lotions.

**Confirmed Cases:**

* If any individual (staff or student) develops symptoms while at the school, they will be immediately isolated and medical care will be sought. Sick students are to be picked up right away and parents notified immediately. Staff will log symptoms in staff communication book and provide parents with an illness form.
* The space will be deeply sanitized and shut down as per Toronto Public Health’s direction and guidance.
* If a staff member or student receives a test reading positive for COVID-19, the school will immediately contact each individual in close contact with the identified patient and inform them of the potential risk.

If a child is tested for COVID-19, we will follow the guidance of the local public health unit, health care provider and related direction for isolation and returning to the program. If there are other siblings or members of the household that attend school or child care, the local public health unit will provide any further direction on returning to school/child care.

**Persons who test positive may not return to the child care setting until they are cleared by the local public health unit.**

**Ill children or staff at the centre**

Children and staff who are ill should remain at home. When a child or staff member develops symptoms or respiratory illness while at the centre, parents will be notified immediately to pick up their ill child. Staff will provide parents an illness form to sign and it will be logged in the school’s communication book.

Ill staff and parents of ill children should advise the centre of absences due to respiratory illness.

Staff, parents and guardians, and children must not attend the program if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

* Symptoms to look for include but are not limited to: fever, cough, and shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, headache, and a general feeling of being unwell.

If a child or child care staff/provider becomes sick while in the program, they should be isolated and family members contacted for pick-up.