



Back to School Plan

Health Screenings

AlphaBEST Center Directors will screen staff and children for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms prior to entry to the program facility each day. Children and staff with a fever in excess of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or exhibiting other symptoms of COVID-19, shall not be allowed to enter the facility, nor will persons that have exposure to persons known to have COVID-19 during the preceding 14 days.

Children and staff must be screened for fever or signs of COVID-19 illness prior to entry to the program. An area, outdoors or in the immediate entryway of the facility, must be designated for screening. Indoor screening areas must be separated from the program facility by walls or physical barriers. Outdoor screening areas must be sufficiently sheltered to allow utilization during inclement weather. In-car screening is permissible. Social distancing or physical barriers should be used to eliminate or minimize exposure risk during screening.

Method 1: Reliance on Social Distancing

- Ask parents/guardians to take their child's temperature upon arrival at the facility. Upon their arrival, stand at least 6 feet away from the parent/guardian and child.
- Ask the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have fever, shortness of breath or cough.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. Staff does not need to wear any personal protective equipment (PPE) beyond cloth masks during this process if they can maintain a distance of 6 feet.

Method 2: Reliance on Barrier/Partition Controls

- Stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window or partition that can serve to protect the staff member's face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the child being screened sneezes, coughs, or talks.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Conduct temperature screening using non-contact (temporal) thermometers (follow steps below)
 - Perform hand hygiene before and after putting on gloves.
 - Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Put on disposable gloves.
 - Check the child's temperature, reaching around the partition or through the window.

- Make sure your face stays behind the barrier at all times during the screening
- If you use non-contact thermometers, clean them with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.

Social Distancing & Group Sizes

Children shall be grouped into groups of no more than 10. Each group must be provided 35 square feet per child and practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Classes shall include the same group of children each day, to the greatest extent possible, and, also to the greatest extent possible, the same staff shall be assigned to care for each group, each day. Groups shall congregate not less than 10 feet in all directions from other groups or be separated by walls or other physical partitions. Combining or mixing groups shall not be permitted.

Use of shared spaces (entryways, restrooms) shall be carefully controlled to ensure that children and staff maintain at least six feet of separation from children or staff from other groups. Floor markings, physical partitions or other safeguards should be used as necessary. Non-essential shared spaces, such as game rooms or dining areas, should be closed, if possible; if this is not possible, the use of these shall be staggered and the spaces shall be disinfected between uses.

Outdoor playtime on shared playgrounds shall be staggered to prevent mixing between groups. Simultaneous use of outdoor play spaces is permissible if at least six feet of separation can be maintained between groups, where possible, to allow for increased outdoor playtime. Outdoor playtime will consist of activities that children can participate in individually without contact, such as Hopscotch, jump rope, etc. All equipment, ie Jump Ropes, would be disinfected after each child uses it and before another child uses it. Children and staff must wash their hands upon returning from outdoor play

Procedures shall be implemented to prevent crowding at pick up and drop off. Though the methods of achieving this will vary depending on the physical layout of each center, centers shall, at a minimum, prohibit the entry of parents or others into an entry vestibule or pick up area in excess of the number that can be accommodated with at least six feet of distance between persons.

Staff shall be required to wear cloth masks while working unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Children shall be required to wear cloth face coverings within the center. In circumstances where it is developmentally inappropriate for a child to wear a mask, he/she will be encouraged to wear a mask or the child will have to maintain a six-foot social distance from the other children in his/her group.

Meals and snacks shall be provided in the classroom or area where groups are regularly situated to avoid congregating in large groups. If meals must be provided in a lunchroom, stagger mealtimes, arrange tables to ensure that there is at least six feet of space between groups, and clean tables between lunch shifts. Individually wrapped snacks and drinks will be provided. Family style dining will not be permitted.

Activities/Curriculum

Sharing of supplies, food, toys and other high touch items must be strictly limited. AlphaBEST will ensure an adequate supply of school, art and other supplies to preclude the need for sharing of items. Children's belongings shall be kept separate in individual storage bins or cubbies and sent home each

day for washing. If items must be shared, they shall be used by one group at a time and cleaned and disinfected between uses.

AlphaBEST has modified its program activities. Historically, AlphaBEST activities are designed with a group dynamic in mind. We are modifying all activities to encourage collaboration with social-distancing of at least 6 feet. Supplies will not be shared.

Visitors

Visitors shall not be permitted to enter the center during operating hours, with the exception of emergency or law enforcement personnel in their official capacity, Department of Children and Families personnel for child protection or child care licensing purposes, and persons providing emergency repair services within the center that cannot be reasonably delayed until the center is closed. All others, including persons providing non-emergency maintenance or repair services, prospective customers, prospective employees, entertainers or speakers, and third party therapists or service providers shall be required to visit the facility after operating hours. Unless precluded by emergency circumstances, visitors to the facility shall be subject to the same screening procedures as children and staff and shall be denied admission on the same basis unless the center is legally precluded from denying access (e.g. a law enforcement agent with an appropriate warrant). To the greatest extent feasible, unless the purpose of the authorized outside visitor is to observe the care provided to children (e.g. a DCF licensing inspector), all reasonable efforts should be made to minimize visitor contact with children and staff. Visitors shall be required to wear cloth masks while visiting the center unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. If a visitor refuses to wear a cloth face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual by the business at the point of entry, the center must decline to allow them to enter.

Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

AlphaBEST will teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff. We will teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings among children, where appropriate, and staff. Face coverings are most essential at times when social distancing is not possible. Staff and children should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. AlphaBEST will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), and tissues. Children and staff shall practice frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and shall be required to wash their hands upon arriving at the center, when entering the activity area, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, and prior to leaving for home. Children will be monitored to ensure proper technique. AlphaBEST will set up hand hygiene stations at the entrance to the facility so that children can clean their hands before entering. AlphaBEST will increase the frequency of cleaning toys, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs, light switches, countertops, and restrooms. Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards and electronics and wash hands after use. AlphaBEST will clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g. equipment, door handles, sink handles) multiple times per day and shared objects between use. Cleaning shall be in accordance with the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Public Spaces,

If groups of children are moving from one area to another in shifts, cleaning measures must be completed prior to the new group entering the area.

Toys and items that are not easily cleaned or disinfected (e.g., soft or plush toys) will not be utilized in the center. Items brought from home will be discouraged. Should an item from home be required it may be utilized if it is not shared, and it goes home with the child each day for washing. Transitional items or fidget toys will be used in accordance with the child's IEP/ Accommodation Plan, these items will not be shared. Toys that children have placed in their mouths or are contaminated by body secretion or excretion shall be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant and air-dry or clean in a mechanical dishwasher.

Response Procedures for COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

Any confirmed or suspected exposure to COVID-19 occurring in a child care center must immediately be reported to both the local department of health and the DCF 9 Office of Licensing.

Children or staff members who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at the facility

- If a child or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at the facility (e.g. fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath), immediately separate the person from the group until the ill person can leave the facility. If the child has symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath), the caregiver waiting with the child should remain as far away as safely possible from the child (preferably, 6 feet).
- If symptoms persist or worsen, they should call a health care provider for further guidance. Advise the employee or child's parent or caregiver to inform the facility immediately if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Children or staff members who test positive for COVID-19

Centers that become aware of a COVID-19 positive case in their facility shall contact their local health department for guidance.

- Health officials will provide direction on whether a center should cease operations following the identification of a positive case in the facility. The duration may be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community and severity of illness in the infected individual. Symptom-free children and staff should not attend or work at another facility during the closure.
- All rooms and equipment used by the infected person, and persons potentially exposed to that person, should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidance referenced above. Centers uncertain about the extent of potential exposure shall clean and sanitize all rooms.

Returning to Child Care After COVID-19 Diagnosis or Exposure

If a staff member or child contracts or is exposed to COVID-19, they cannot be admitted to a center again until the criteria for lifting transmission-based precautions and home isolation have been met. Those criteria are included in the Department of Health's guidance available here:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-QuickRef_Discont_Isolation_and_TBP.pdf

Capacity

Capacity is calculated by allowing 35 square foot per child and an allowance of 10 feet between groups. Capacity was calculated based square footage on floor plans.

Ridge

Measured Capacity

| Gym | MPR | Total | Gym | MPR |
|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 60 | 80 | 140 | 75 | 91 |

Orchard **

| Cafeteria | MPR | Total | Cafeteria | MPR |
|-----------|-------|---------|-----------|-----|
| 50-60 | 50-60 | 100-120 | 85 | 83 |

Travell (Library additional 50 measured)

| Tiger's Den | Gym** | Total | Tiger's Den | Gym |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------------|-----|
| 50 | 60 | 110 | 68 | 83 |

Willard

| Cafeteria | Auditorium | Total | Cafeteria | Auditorium |
|-----------|------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| 40 | 60 | 160 | 55 | 75 |

Glen School

| MPR/Gym | Total | | MPR/Gym | |
|---------|-------|--|---------|--|
| 50 | 50 | | 73 | |

Hawes

| Gym | MPR | Total | Gym | MPR |
|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 60 | 60 | 120 | 82 | 75 |

Somerville

| Gym | Basement Lunch Rm | Total | Gym | Basement Lunch Rm |
|-------|-------------------|---------|-----|-------------------|
| 50-60 | 60 | 110-120 | 77 | 101 |

** Floor Plan did not provide square footage, Capacity is an estimate

All Day /Full Day/ Half Day Care

AlphaBEST is prepared to provide care for the needs of the community. We have developed program models to support whatever the district needs.

This plan is in accordance with Guidance from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.