



E.B. Hirsh
Early Childhood Center
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

Dear E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and you were able to enjoy a little bit of summer.

Since the start of our five-month closure, I have been working closely with the Chair of the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center Advisory Committee, Laurie Duhan. We have been living, breathing, and eating plans for opening school. We are following Maryland State Department of Education and the Center for Disease Control recommendations and requirements. This is going to be new for all of us and now more than ever, we are asking you, the parents for help in making our reopening and Academic Year a success. On Friday August 21 we will be having a “practice run” of the drop off and pick up procedures as well as some classroom time. Look for more information regarding this event. In addition, we will be having class specific Zoom Meetings. Dates and times still yet to be determined.

There are many new policies and procedures as we open the school. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) of this letter for additional important information. This letter will be posted on the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center web site.

What are the hours for the school day?

School will be opening from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. If your original schedule was either at 7:00 am or 8:00 am, your child may arrive at 8:00. Our core day remains 9:00 am-3:00 pm and we continue to offer a half day option of 9:00 am-1:00 pm. If you chose a schedule beginning at 9:00 am, you will arrive at 9:00 am. All children must arrive by 9:30, unless you have notified the school office.

Why are you opening at 8:00 am and closing at 4:00 pm?

For the safety of the children and per State of Maryland Regulations, consistent groups of children while they are in school must be maintained. Therefore, at this time we cannot accommodate families who need additional extended care. Our number one priority is making sure to limit risk and keep our school as safe as possible.

What is the late policy?

Staffing is based on what times children arrive and are picked up. Prior to March 13, we were lenient about late fees. However, late fees will now be assessed at \$1.00 per minute. If you are late more than three times, the per minute fee will be raised.

What will be the procedure for drop-off and pick up?

We will provide details of our carpool policies shortly. A few highlights include:

- There will be two separate drop off and pick up zones- one for infants/toddlers and one for preschoolers (two through four-year-old).
- Parents may not enter the school; a staff member will be at the entrance to assist.
- Children's temperatures will be taken and noted on the sign in sheet. If the temperature is at or above 100.0 degrees, the child will not be permitted to enter the building.
- Children exhibiting signs of a cold, cough, having trouble breathing, a sore throat, blisters, rashes or who visibly look ill will also not be permitted to attend. This decision will be at the discretion of the Director or designee for everyone's safety.
- Staff will also be screened daily upon entry.

Please keep your children home if there is any question that they may be sick or coming down with something.

Will parents be permitted in the building?

According to the Office of Childcare regulations, no one is permitted inside the building with the exception of teachers, staff, and children.

How will I communicate with my child's teacher?

Infant and Toddler parents will be given a supply of Daily Sheets to complete prior to arriving at school. At drop off you will give the teachers working drop off the paper. You may also call or email the office or send a message through the chat option on Remini.

Preschool parents you can send your child with a note, call or email the office or send a message through the chat option on Remini.

Will teachers be wearing masks?

Yes. Teachers will be wearing masks, and some may be wearing face shields.

Do children have to wear masks?

All children over the age of 2 are mandated by the City of Baltimore to wear masks. Children must wear masks in the hallway. Please start practicing wearing a mask with your children. Masks will not be worn during eating, napping, and playing outside as long as 6 feet physical distancing can be maintained.

Can backpacks and lunch boxes be brought into the school building?

Unfortunately, no. Everything must be sent in plastic/disposable bags. I am researching the best way to keep lunches cold since ice packs are not permitted. Please no plastic containers and plasticware.

Will the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center be providing snacks?

Due to the regulations with serving food, parents will send in food for both a morning and afternoon snack. We will be providing plastic utensils and paper cups for drinking.

Will the children be able to play on the playground?

Yes. Only one class will be permitted on the playground at a time. Before the next class comes out, all hard surface equipment will be disinfected.

Will toys be disinfected in the classroom before each use?

Yes. When a child is finished with a toy, they will place the toy in a special bin for cleaning. Once the toy is cleaned it is ready to be used by another child.

Will art supplies be shared?

No. We will supply each child with appropriate art materials. However, we are asking you to purchase a plastic school box to keep your child's materials in.

How does reopening impact the class sizes and child/teacher ratios? My child is in the Turtle Room and his friend is in the Zebra Room will they be able to play together?

We will keep our classes in small "pods" to limit exposure to one group of children as opposed to the entire school. At all times class pods will remain together throughout the day without mixing with other class pods.

They will not be able to play together because each classroom or pod stays together all the time. They are also required to use the bathroom in their own classroom. By keeping each pod separate we reduce/eliminate possible cross contamination between children.

Are you going to increase tuition?

Safety of your children and our staff is our number one priority and we know it is yours as well. We need additional staff to keep us safe. Smaller class sizes, assistance during carpool and on-going sanitization are just a few things necessary to stay safe. We also recognize that these are unusual times. Rather than raising tuition, we are adding a \$150/month/child COVID fee that we are committed to removing as soon as the threat of COVID has passed.

I am sure you have additional questions regarding the start of school. We are having two Zoom Town Hall Meetings on Tuesday August, 11 and Thursday August, 13 both at 8:00 pm. I hope you will be able to join us for one of the meetings.

I look forward to seeing everyone as we start the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Be well,

Jen