

## Daily VPS Schedule with COVID-19 Precautions

This copy of our reopening plan is a little less formal and has more information specific to our daily routine. It is the plan from which I formed the NYS plan. The schedule reflects what we have traditionally done at VPS, but we expect to do some monitoring and adjusting to fit our number of children while keeping the elements and content intact.

### Staff

- VPS staff will do a daily temperature check to be sure everyone at school has a temperature under 100.4 degrees.
- VPS staff plan to wear a smock/over shirt of some kind over street clothes so that it can be changed if it becomes soiled by tears/other secretions when it's necessary to hold a child who is crying.
- VPS staff will wear masks.
- VPS staff will wash hands before school, when helping children wash, between activities, when they are soiled – all the time.

### Children

- Children will have their temperature checked daily upon arrival as part of the check-in process to be sure everyone at school has a temperature under 100.4 degrees.
- Children will wear masks. (The doctor did say that as long as we are rigorous with checking symptoms at the door, observe social distancing, and avoid overcrowding, children having masks off for snack time and some other times when they can be farther apart is fine. We will be talking a LOT about personal space and keeping a healthy distance away from others.)
- Children will wash hands before school, between activities, before snack time, when they are soiled, following gym or outdoor play – also all the time.

### Materials/equipment/toys/manipulatives cleaning and other precautions\*

- The items we use will be washed/sanitized daily. In each room and/or for each activity we will have a basket for items used during that session. Washing combined with the amount of time that things will sit before being used again will serve to kill any viruses on these items.
- Because water is drained daily (and often has a bit of soap) and our sand (on which viruses don't survive well) can be aired out for close to 48 hours between sessions, we have the go ahead to use our water and sand tables with social distancing rules in place.
- Rather than sharing crayons which are hard to wash/sanitize, we will give each child a labeled plastic lidded box containing crayons. Uncharacteristically, we will be discouraging the sharing of scissors, glue bottles/sticks etc. and will either include these items in the boxes or clean them daily following use.
- If we use play dough children will have labeled containers of their own
- Classroom and other surfaces will be cleaned daily by VPS staff and the church custodian
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each room for staff to use on children when washing can't happen right away.
- We will utilize the community room/gym space as well as outdoors (weather permitting) for many of our group lessons/activities to take advantage of better ventilation and space.

\*This may not be an exhaustive list, but it should give you an idea of the care we are taking to keep your children healthy.

### Sickness policy

- We always ask that children with fevers, lots of nasal drainage, bad coughs, vomiting or other digestive issues stay home.
- This year along with checking temperatures, we ask that children stay home if they have any kind of runny nose or things that are symptoms of COVID-19. There have been times when it's become clear that a child should not be at school, and we would like to avoid having to call parents for a pick-up and having to get the word out to families that someone symptomatic was at school.

## 8:50/55 – 9:05/10 – Drop off/Gathering time

To give families some shelter and a little more space to spread out, we will be using the north entrance foyer area for dropping children off. Staff, children, and parents will need to wear masks for drop-off and pick-up times. We will do a temperature check and take your child for hanging up coats/belongings, hand washing, and joining the other children. Please begin talking through this routine, so your child can have in mind what to expect.

## 9:05/10 – Morning meeting

Weather & Calendar – these activities give children an awareness of their surroundings and serve to get us focused together for the morning

### Mondays

Bible

### Wednesdays

Book reading and theme discussion

### Fridays

Music

- For these gatherings we will use rugs or other indicators on the floor to keep children spread out. Please start prepping children for the idea of staying on or in a certain space. We know this is and expect it to be difficult at first!
- We will focus more on aspects of music like rhythm, listening, and instruments rather than singing together at least at the beginning of the year.

## 9:25 – 10:00/05 – Centers

Messy room

### **Water table**

#### When used with water

- Limit number of children to 2, using vinyl footprints on the floor to indicate where children should stand to stay spread out
- Toys used go into basket for washing
- Sanitize toys & table daily after school
- Smocks will be used on only one child daily

#### When using other sensory items

Wet items (ooblech etc.)

- provide individual container for each child
- Dry items (leaves, acorns, pine cones, seeds, shells or other sensory items)
- change daily

### **Sand table**

- Cut down on number of toys & rotate them
- Limit number of children to 4, using vinyl footprints on the floor to indicate where children should stand to stay spread out
- Toys used go into basket for washing
- Sanitize toys & table daily after school

### **Play dough**

- Limit number of children to 2, placing chairs so children can stay spread out
- Provide individual container for each child
- Toys used go into basket for washing
- Sanitize toys daily after school

## **Painting**

- Smocks will be used on only one child daily

## **Table projects**

- Limit number of children to 2
- Each child will use his/her own lidded craft bin containing crayons
- Glue sticks, glue, scissors, and paint brushes etc. can be washed/sanitized after use

## **Manipulatives - puzzles, blocks, & games**

- Toys, game pieces etc. used go into basket for cleaning
- Children need to be spread apart/masked at the table or on the floor

## **Literacy**

- Children need to sit on the floor to be read to rather than with the teacher or next to each other on the couch.
- Rugs or other indicators will be used to keep children spread out
- Each child will use his/her own lidded craft bin containing crayons
- Glue sticks, glue, scissors, and paint brushes etc. can be sanitized after use when used
- Children need to be spread apart/masked at the tables or on the floor

## 10:05 – Bathroom/hand washing & snack

### **Bathroom use**

- Each child is encouraged to use the bathroom at this transition time

### **Hand washing**

- Children will be monitored to assure a good washing
- We may use the idea of a stamp that has to be washed off to give children an idea of how long they need to wash.

### **Snacks**

- Instead of families rotating through a schedule to provide the snack for all the children, this year **we ask that parents provide a snack for their own child each day**. We may give guidelines so that kids have comparable amounts, snacks can be finished in about the same amount of time, there is no staff prep or complicated clean-up, snacks are healthy, etc.
- Rather than our usual placemats, we will use disposable plates/napkins
- We will eat in shifts as necessary to keep children far enough apart at the table

## 10:20/25 – 11:05/10 – Class time

- We will use rugs or other indicators to keep children spread out for circle time
- We will limit number of children per table
- Each child will use a labeled lidded craft bin containing crayons, glue stick, glue, scissors
- We will have a basket for toys/materials used that day

## 11:05/10 – 11:30 – Gym/Playground (11:15/20 start for playground since we're out until the end)

- We will implement measures to keep children at safe distances during active play
- Riding toys and other gym toys touched by children will be cleaned following daily use

## 11:30/35 – 11:45 – Review and pick-up

- Children will wash hands/use sanitizer at the end of the day.
- We will use rugs or other indicators to keep children spread out.
- Daily review/wrap up (when not from the playground) will take place in the community room and children will be picked up from there.