



Summary of COVID-19 Response Plan

The health and safety of the children, staff and families of BlueSkies are our highest priority. We must balance the health concerns with the realities of caring for young children. Social distancing is not possible when caring for an infant and changing diapers, for example. Challenging behaviors such as biting or hitting cannot be properly addressed by staff from six feet away. These health and safety procedures are developed using the guidance from the CDC, OSHA, and the CA Departments of Health and Human Services and Public Health, and we will continue to seek and implement best practices as we move forward.

Our plan was developed by the BlueSkies leadership with input from the teaching staff and in consultation with our Board, Covid-19 Advisory Committee, and guidance from the CDC and government health departments. These procedures and policies are reviewed frequently and adjustments are made as needed. Any time we update the plan we send it to all staff and parents with a summary of changes.

All teachers and staff went through extensive training on health and safety practices we've developed to set a new standard in child care. Before reopening, teachers and staff participated in two weeks of classroom preparation and health and safety training to learn and understand the heightened precautions required due to COVID-19. Staff have ongoing supervision and team meetings to report on the progress of the new measures and to be updated on guidelines as needed. All families and staff sign a Community Agreement that we are relying on each other to make safe decisions and to be transparent about possible exposures and symptoms.

The BlueSkies for Children COVID-19 Response Plan details our enhanced health and safety precautions and protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus during this time. *Key elements of the plan include:*

- Daily health screening of all staff and children
- Physically distanced drop off and pick up plan
- Use of PPE by all staff members
- Quarantine protocols for presentation of symptoms; for suspected or confirmed exposures to COVID; and for travel
- On-site visitors, tours and deliveries prohibited
- Heightened hand hygiene practices for all staff and children
- Physical distancing to the extent possible in classrooms and at naptime

All teachers and staff are required to wear masks and face shields or goggles in classrooms and while interacting with unmasked children. Teachers wear vinyl, powder-free gloves to serve food, for all diaper changes, and as needed for cleaning.

Toys, playground equipment, and other high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected and rotated throughout the day. We have paused or individualized portions for sensory play. Difficult to sanitize items have been removed from classrooms (rugs, pillows, etc.). Children's needs and ages are taken into account regarding cleanliness and safe use of equipment. Children are outdoors as frequently as possible. When inside, doors and windows are open to increase ventilation. Housekeepers, as well as teachers, are cleaning throughout the day. The cleaning service is also cleaning and disinfecting each evening.

In the event of bad air quality, children are brought indoors and windows and doors closed if the AQI reaches 100 or more (we monitor using Purple Air with the LRAPA filter). Each classroom has an air purifier that is used, and we have a few additional air purifiers so we can have more than one running in a group as needed.

Meals are still prepared fresh daily. Children are no longer serving their own food and drinks, and we spread out eating arrangements, so staff do not sit with the children but walk between tables to serve children, supervise, and support during this time. Children eat at tables outdoors in small groups as much as possible. Children are spaced out as they eat.

As recommended by the CDC and other health authorities, the school keeps children and teachers in small and stable groups or "bubbles." The current guidelines limit group size to 12 students, and we staff each group with 2-3 teachers to mitigate the need for floating substitutes during this time. Because of new research showing the spread through contact with surfaces is minimal, substitutes (wearing PPE and following procedures outlined in this plan) will step into classrooms as needed. Siblings are grouped together in two mixed-age classroom groups.

The full COVID-19 Response Plan is shared regularly with all staff and families at BlueSkies. We update the plan frequently as new guidance and information about COVID-19 becomes available.