

# Salamander School

## COVID-19 Guidelines

General Policy - care we are taking to reduce COVID-19 in our classes

This document is subject to change, and will be updated accordingly along with any changes made to the **California state and CDC guidelines**. Updated September 5, 2021

**No make-ups in order to keep class groups consistent.**

### Class Size

- It is not realistic or developmentally appropriate to expect preschool children to socially distance. Our classes are small to allow this.
  - The School Year has 6 drop-off children per two-day class and 2-3 children with their parents/caregivers attending per day.
  - Therefore each two-day class during the 2021-22 School Year will have a maximum of 12 kids attending each week.
  - If a child will be missing class, another Salamander child may buy that spot under the discretion of the teacher at that time.

### Baby/ Guest Policy

- Babies under 12 months can usually attend for free in a carrier.
- Siblings over 2 years old can join as a class participant when space is available. Payment is required for each participating child.
  - A different adult from your home pod can participate after you ask the teacher and verify that adult's paperwork is complete. Only one adult per child per day. One adult can be with 2 kids.
  - If a **drop-off child** is experiencing separation anxiety, their parent/caregiver may stay until the child is ready before snack.

## Materials

- Children play with the natural items that they find in class (sticks, acorns, gall balls, leaves, rocks) and these may be shared.
- Drop-off children bring their own felt story mouse in their backpack.  
**Other toys from home need to stay at home or in the family car.**

## Social Distancing/PPE

- Participating parents/caregivers need to work to stay physically distant from other children for circle, snack/lunch and on the trail. Their child can choose to sit in the circle or stay with them and can play with the other children.
- Participating parents/caregivers will help their child in the bathroom.
- **All parents/caregivers, whether or not vaccinated, will wear a mask except when drinking or eating apart from the group.**
- Parents can choose to have their child, over age two, wear a mask. The teacher helps children with their mask if the parents requested.

## Timing of Classes

- The School year is from early September to mid May.
- Drop-off students currently attend twice a week. *(See Calendar)*
- Children with a participating parent/caregiver usually attend once a week, a few attend twice a week.
- No makeups for illness, class cancelled for weather or Covid.

# What is Needed From Parents and Caregivers

## Masks/ PPE

- **Adults will wear masks in class** including for drop-off and pickup.
- Parents help their child arrive in a mask and **wash hands** directly before class.
- **Each family chooses if their child(ren) keeps on their mask and informs the teacher**, who works to assist children with their masks.
  - At snack/lunch time masks will be taken off.
- Participating adults **bring their own hand sanitizer** to class. The teacher administers hand sanitizer to the drop-off children.
- If there is any sign of illness in your family, have your child stay home and notify the teacher. Follow CDC guidelines for testing/quarantining

## Social Distancing

- Participating **parent/caregivers will stay six feet back** during circle times and snack/lunch to allow for social distancing. The child can choose to join the circle and play with the other children.

## Food Policy

- Drop-off children carry a **water bottle and a snack & lunch from home** in their backpacks. If a child runs out of food or water, the teacher can provide water or some snack.
- Participating parent/caregiver can carry their own and the child's water bottle and snack/lunch if the child is not wearing a backpack.

## FAQs

### What is the plan if there is a return to shelter in place?

- If there is a shelter in place, the teacher will communicate with parents via email with suggestions and mail letters to the students. We had a successful outdoor 2020-21 school year and anticipate continuing during the 2021-22 school year. No makeups.

### Can a grandparent or caretaker come to class with a child?

- Parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent or au pair in the family pod, can attend. One adult per family per class. After 3rd class, proof of negative TB test or TB risk assessment and measles and pertussis (whooping cough) immunization for the adult is needed.

### Can we participate in other preschool classes during the school year?

- Yes. If a family chooses to participate in a second program, discuss it with the teacher first. Outdoor programs, short classes with no naps, once or twice a week are preferred. Families are required to be conscientious of any possible exposure to COVID-19, inform the teacher, and not come to class if they think anyone in their household may have been exposed or have any symptoms. CA, Santa Clara County and CDC quarantine protocol will be followed.

## Questions

Help us adapt to life during Covid-19 and care for all Salamander kids and families.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me:

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