

**NEW YORK STATE
Department Of Health**

**Supplement to the Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at
Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health
Emergency**

Stakeholders Communication and Outreach

Building Blocks Developmental Preschool has posted the entire re-opening plan on our website. The following key points included in the complete re-opening document are highlighted here pursuant to this guidance.

Remote Learning

Distance Learning will be provided in accordance with the guidance published in the [Recovering, Rebuilding and Renewing: The Spirit of New York Schools \(NYSED – July 16, 2020\)](#). Building Blocks will provide support and flexibility in providing a fully virtual learning model. The following outlines a distance learning option for all children at Building Blocks Developmental Preschool should the need arise:

- Live circle time lessons
- Live individual or small group session with teacher
- Live or pre-recorded gym class
- Live teletherapy sessions per IEP mandates for related services
- Instructional packets via Google classroom
- Yoga classes

During remote learning components to teaching, the staff will develop activities that encourage experiential hands-on learning to balance screen-time. Live and pre-recorded lessons include activities such as “treasure hunts”, age-appropriate cooking lessons, and building with common everyday objects such as cans, plastic ware, etc.

Through outreach by our social worker and school psychologists families with limited resources will be identified. Resources such as materials and supplies to complete instructional packets will be provided when necessary. Options for having to print activity sheets will be available such as pre-prepared instructional packets that can be sent home via mail, picked up by parent or dropped off to families in need.

Should we be able to open school, the teaching staff and therapists are advised to prepare supply boxes and instructional packets ahead of time so that these can be distributed to families needing them ahead of any possible public health emergency closure.

Once again, in implementing any learning model during the COVID-19 public health emergency, Building Blocks Developmental Preschool will abide by the

guidance provided allowing for “flexibility with respect to the mode and/or manner; group or individual sessions; specific group size for related services, frequency, duration and location of related services, and special class size ratio etc.” reference: [Recovering, Rebuilding and Renewing: The Spirit of New York Schools \(NYSED - July 16, 2020\).](#)

Building Blocks Developmental Preschool’s Educational Coordinator will continue to ensure that a well enhanced curriculum is presented to our children regardless of the mode of delivery. The curriculum includes:

1. The Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that promotes exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills;
2. Learning Without Tears: Readiness, Writing and Math Curriculum is a program that teaches body awareness, cooperation, turn-taking, listening, crayon grip, drawing, letter recognition, number concepts, patterns, geometry, measurements and uses music, movement and multisensory manipulative items;
3. Frog Street Press Literacy Program is a program that reinforces basic pre-academic skills, including alphabet, numbers, colors, themes and shapes.

TESTING

Health Screening and Temperature Checks

All staff, students and visitors will have temperatures taken daily and be required to pass a health screening. Ideally, staff should take their own temperature at home prior to coming to school. If anyone presents with a temperature greater than 100 degrees F, the individual will be denied entry into the building, brought to a designated area waiting to be picked up or otherwise sent home.

Staff will be required to answer specific questions designed to deter the spread of COVID-19 before signing in each day. Parents/guardians of children will be sent a health questionnaire prior to the start of school. Parents/guardians who drive their children to school will be asked daily if the results of that screening have changed. Parents or guardians of children who are transported by County bus will be required to agree to conduct daily health screenings before their child boards the county bus. If the answer to any of the health check questions is yes or if the child has a temperature of >100 degrees F, the child must stay home from school and the parent should contact the school nurse.

Positive Screen Protocols

Anyone, staff or student, who presents with any symptoms related to COVID-19 or has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 as determined through the health screening will be sent home immediately and instructed to contact their health care provider for further assessment.

Staff members will be instructed to notify the school nurses if they develop any symptoms related to COVID-19 during the workday.

Children/students who develop symptoms during the school day will be assessed by the school nurse and situated in a separate area until the child can be picked up. Since the person picking up the child may have had close proximal contact with the child he/she will not be allowed into the building but rather the child will be brought to the person outside the school building. Information regarding healthcare and testing sites will be provided.

If any incident results in a positive test result, the nurse will notify Suffolk or Nassau County Department of Health.

Anyone sent home for a positive COVID-19 screening may not return to school or work without documentation from a healthcare provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing and symptom resolution, or if COVID positive, release from isolation.

If a member of the school community tests positive, the school director, in consultation with the administrative staff, the school nurse, Suffolk County DOH and OCFS will determine the actions necessary to contain possible further exposure. Actions can include partial closing of affected areas or full school closure for disinfection and cleaning.

As noted previously, the contact person for all positive COVID-19 cases is Donna Charbonneau – dcharbonneau@bbdps.com; (631) 499-1237.

Personnel performing in-person screenings will be trained by the school nurses and will be appropriately protected from exposure to any infectious disease. Screening personnel will be required to wear face covering and shields. Gloves will be available as needed.

Building Blocks Developmental Preschool always has a school nurse on premises. There is a room dedicated Health Care Office. Additionally, a separate room has been identified within the school to be used when an individual has exhibited COVID-19 symptoms.

PPE requirements for school nurses or persons supervising possible transmission-based patients include medical gowns, gloves, N-95 respirator, if available or face mask and shield.

Any area used by a patient identified as exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be closed and properly cleaned and disinfected prior to being used again.

CONTACT TRACING

If it has been determined through data collected by the school nurse or the designated contact person that cases of COVID-19 positive individuals is on the rise, whether it be students, families of students or staff members, additional actions to mitigate the spread will be taken. The local Department of Health will be contacted for guidance. Further action could include closing a particular class or the entire school should need be.

Building Blocks Developmental Preschool will rely on our local oversight regulatory agencies (Suffolk County Department of Health, Office of Children and Family Services, New York State Department of Education) to track and report COVID-19 daily metrics that serve as early warning signs in our area. Per directive

by Governor Cuomo on July 13, 2020 the criteria for school to be open include: “the school must be in a region that is in Phase IV of reopening; and its daily infection rate remains 5% or lower using a 14-day average since unPAUSE was lifted. Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a 7-day average, after August 1”. The local Department of Health and OFCS will guide us should we need to close the school.

A daily log is completed for anyone visiting the building. The log includes specific information regarding whom the visitor is there to see. In addition to the required COVID prevention questions and temperature check, all visitors will be given contact information for the clinical coordinator and will be instructed to call the clinical coordinator if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 in the subsequent 2 weeks. Conversely, if a person the visitor was in to see tests positive or shows symptoms of COVID-19 within two weeks of the visit, the clinical coordinator will contact the visitor. The current Clinical Coordinator is Mary Rousseau and she can be reached at mrousseau@bbdps.com or by calling (631) 499-1237.

The local department of health will also be notified of any positive COVID-19 cases reported to Building Blocks Developmental Preschool.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

According to this guidance at least three public online meetings must be held between August 7 and August 21, 2020 to address potential concerns and to answer any outstanding questions. On August 13 and 14, a series of 4 meetings were held to respond to any parent concerns. Additionally, all stakeholders were encouraged to contact the Executive Director (Donna Charbonneau – dcharbonneau@bbdps.com) or the Assistant Director (Dorothy Aversano – daversano@bbdps.com) should there be any additional questions or concerns. In addition, on August 12 and again on August 13 a total of three online meetings were held for teachers, therapists and staff to address potential concerns and answer any outstanding questions. Both Donna Charbonneau and Dorothy Aversano are regularly available to the staff through e-mail, text and phone calls. In person meetings for staff are also an option with appropriate face covering and social distancing protocols.