

Policies and Procedures to Reopen Building Blocks Developmental Preschool for the School Year 20-21

UPDATE: TO Health Advisory: Face Masks in School Settings

Building Blocks Developmental Preschool has reviewed its face mask policy and has decided that the guidelines noted in *Recovering, Rebuilding and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools - Reopening Guidance* are consistent with the needs of the children in our school. Please note the references and guidance changes noted on page 4 of our reopening plan.

UPDATE: I. PEOPLE:

A. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE COVERING

Face Covering

While face masks are encouraged, children will not be required to wear face coverings if they have difficulty tolerating them. The New York State Education Department describes guidance which supports the following in relation to face masks in the school setting (reference: *Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools Reopening Guidance*):

- Face masks may be challenging for younger students to wear for extended periods of time. Scheduling or allowing face masks breaks is a priority.
- Face masks should never be worn by children under 2 years of age.
- Face masks should not be placed on children where wearing a face mask would impair their health or mental health, or where face covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction.
- Face masks should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Staff will support any parent's decision to have their child wear a face covering when in school and will utilize a variety of teaching methods such as modeling, verbal encouragement, social stories and role playing to achieve this goal.