



# Back in the Classroom Lessons Learned from 2020-2021

## Tips for Success

### **Drop off/Pick up Procedures:**

- Stagger arrival times.
- Provide two drop off points and have two adults stationed at each point.
- Have extra staff to help with process for student arrival and departure.
- Use walkie talkies during drop off and pick up.
- Have parents call the center/school when they arrive for pick up and staff can walk children out to the car.

### **Family Communication:**

- Hold virtual meetings with families to keep them informed.
- Provide families with your plan for handling COVID-19 cases at your site.
- If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID, immediately share with families your plan of how it will be handled.
- Provide a virtual parent orientation – do a walkthrough of what drop off and pick up will look like (use actual children and show the process or record the process and share with families).

### **Classroom Tips:**

- Keep group sizes small when possible. Consider dividing the class into cohorts that remain consistent.
- Limit the number of centers open and the number of children in a center.
- Have bins available to place items in throughout the day that need to be cleaned.
- Provide children with an individual bin with items such as their own crayons, markers, manipulatives, playdough, glue
- sticks, magnetic letters and numbers, etc.
- Provide children with their own chair to use for any table time activities. Include the child's name on the chair.
- Provide children with their own space at the table and mark it with their name or picture.
- Provide markings on the floor (names, pictures, spot) or individual carpet squares for large group.
- Use materials in the centers that can be cleaned easily, others can be stored away for now (puppets, dress up clothes, stuffed animals, etc.).
- Have less materials out at a time and rotate materials more often.
- Use individual bins at tables with sensory items in them to be cleaned daily instead of opening the sensory table.

### **Other:**

- Use a timer for hand washing to let kids know how long to wash their hands.
- Provide individual bags labeled with children's names to store sheets and blankets during the day.
- Limit the number of personal items from home (backpacks, toys, etc.).
- Have meals delivered to the classroom versus eating in a cafeteria or large common space.