



2020-2021

Back in the Classroom (Lessons Learned from STP)

Tips for Success

Drop off/Pick up Procedures:

- Stagger arrival times
- Allow only children to be dropped off at the front of the building while families stay in the car
- Provide two drop off points and have two adults stationed at each point
- Have extra staff to help with the process for student arrival and departure
- Use walkie talkies during drop off and pick up
- Have families call the center/school when they arrive for pick up and staff can walk children out to the car

Family Communication:

- Hold frequent 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 procedures 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 two 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 each child with an individual bin with items such as his/her own crayons, markers, manipulatives, playdough, glue sticks, magnetic letters and numbers, etc.
- Provide each child with his/her own chair to use for table time activities. Include the child's name on the chair.
- Provide each child with his/her own space at the table and mark it with his/her 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 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 children know how long to wash their hands
- Provide individual bags labeled with children's names to store sheets and blankets during the day
- Consider not allowing personal items from home (backpacks, toys, etc.)
- Have meals delivered to the classroom versus eating in a cafeteria or large common space