



Parent Newsletter

2021/22 School Year

Welcome to the 2021/22 School Year! We are so excited for the coming year. Our academic calendar is packed full of exciting things to do, and our curriculum will provide each student with many learning opportunities. We hope this year brings us a little peace and we can continue to work on recovering from all this last year and a half has brought to our lives.

Current Covid Regulations

- Mask Mandate – All staff, parents, and children 5 and older are required to wear mask while indoors regardless of vaccine status.
- Exclude from the program any child or staff member, regardless of vaccination status, if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms including new loss of taste or smell, fever, new cough, or shortness of breath in the last 10 days.
 1. New cough means out of the ordinary for this person – e.g., not typical asthma, allergies.
 2. Fever means 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 3. Exclusion from the program should be for 10 days after onset of symptoms and 24 hours after both fever and cough resolve, without the use of a fever reducing medication. Programs should consult with the Local Public Health Authority for additional guidance.
 - The 10-day exclusion period can be shortened:
 - ✓ If an individual with symptoms of COVID-19 tests negative at any time during the 10-day period. They can return to the childcare program 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication. Cough must be diagnosed with doctors note for return to care.
- Exclude from the program any child or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
- Exclude from the program any child or staff member who is directly exposed to COVID-19.
- We will continue our stricter cleaning protocols. Handwashing and the use of Hand Sanitizers.
- Minimize classroom traffic. We will continue having parents wait in lobby areas for pick-up and drop-off.

Recommended Prevention Strategies for Covid

The following best practices protocols are recommended to be established by childcare program to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

It is important to remember: Our communities will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity. COVID-19 continues to evolve with new, more infectious variants; our knowledge of mitigation efforts also evolves over time. For these reasons the guidance for responding to COVID-19 also evolves. Right now, the best tools to protect individuals are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and airflow, hand hygiene, and staying home if ill or exposed to someone with COVID-19. Opportunity for transmission decreases with each mitigation effort that is implemented

- Best Practices for Stable Groups *Note: Although stable group restrictions have been lifted, it is important to remember that if a COVID-19 positive case occurs, everyone that had exposure should quarantine. Therefore, it is so important to minimize contact as much as possible.
 1. Keep adults and children in the same groups as much as possible.
 2. Staff and children from different groups should practice physical distancing.
 3. Interaction with individuals from other groups should be minimized.

Hours of Operation

We have been operating with reduced hours of 7:30-5:30. We will keep those hours as our main operating hours.

Attendance

All absences must be communicated with our main office and the admin staff. You can provide a written note, call the main office 503-691-5775 use our email address directors@growingwithpride.com or the absence tab on our website. The app is a great tool to use for communicating with your classroom teachers. However, it is not seen daily by administration so is not a preferred

method used to communicate absences, questions regarding schedules or tuition. Please let us know of any upcoming planned absences or if they will not be attending due to an illness. It is also important that we know of any illnesses your child may be suffering from so we can better contain the spread to other students.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on a progressivist education model with the theory that children learn best by playing. GWP has focused the areas of learning on 8 domains of development: Approaches to Learning, Social/Emotional, Physical Development & Health, Mathematics, Science & Technology, Social Studies, Language Literacy & Communication, Creative Arts.

These domains are the building blocks of our curriculum, ensuring children are exposed to each area weekly in the planned activities. We stress the importance of active learners, creating an atmosphere of exploration, experimentation, and discovery. Our curriculum is well-balanced helping children to develop a sense of autonomy, and an enriched cognitive environment. Our setting ensures that children's needs (intellectual, physical, emotional, social, and creative) are appropriately met at a variety of levels and are age appropriate.

Child Assessments and Screenings

At Growing with Pride, we ensure that each child's growth and development is progressing appropriately. In doing this we implement both a screening tool, the ASQ (ages & stages questionnaire), and an assessment tool, COR advantage. The ASQ is given to parents to fill out, helping us to observe the progress they are showing in their home environment as well as here at school. The ASQSE (ages & stages questionnaire social/emotional) is done upon request or when a concern arises. The COR advantage is done in class by the teachers observing the students at an activity or videotaping their interactions for later observations—focusing on their progress and abilities in a certain area of development. For more information on COR advantage see the director for the parent pamphlet.

- *What is the difference between a Screening and an Assessment?* A screening tests the children based on the norm for their age group in the different areas of development. The Assessment will be done at three intervals throughout the school year and evaluates each child's individual growth and development based on their own individual progress.

Our Teachers Are Ready & Excited for The Upcoming School Year!

We have spent a lot of time rebuilding since our 2020 school closure, and we are very proud of the team of teachers we have assembled! Although some faces may be familiar, we have brought in some amazing new teachers we are excited for all the amazing things they will bring to our program. You may only see them at drop-off and pick-up time, but they do an outstanding job each and every day!

The GWP On-Line Programs

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our on-line programs and visit them frequently for updates, program information, communication with your child's teacher and Growing With Pride staff. Please read all newsletters, notices given out, and turn in all requested paperwork.

GWP Website

Our parent portal on our website www.growingwithpride.com, will give you access to your child's classroom information. The Parent page is private, and password protected. We will have school calendars, access to the parent handbook, parent forms, letters, important updates/reminders/info and more. The password is **exploring**

Childcare App Information & Communication

Our app allows us to take attendance, input your child's schedule, activities and to communicate with parents. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the app you can utilize the app to inform classroom staff of events in your child's life, your child's growth, sleeping patterns, eating habits and more.

Bulletin Boards

With parents not allowed in our classrooms we will have some fun bulletin boards in the lobby to show off some of the awesome work and projects being done in your child's classroom. Don't forget to stop by and admire their hard work!

MyProcare

ProCare is the program we use for your account information. Please ensure that you keep account information current. You can find a link to MyProcare on our website in the parent portal; simply click the link and you can get on to update your information at any time.

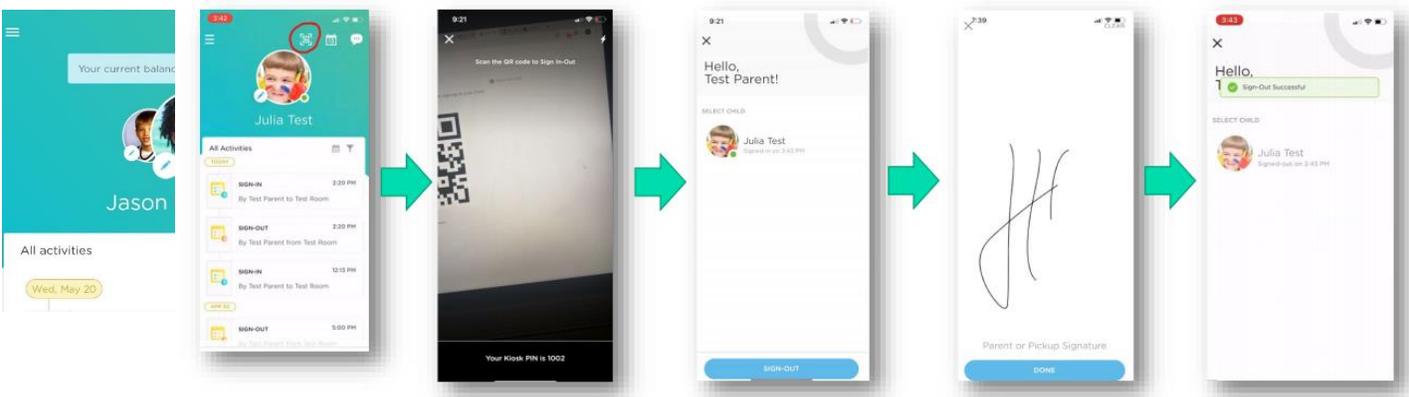
Check In and Out

We will have a new method for parents to check children in and out. Our Procare app allows parents to utilize a QR code, allowing parents to sign their children in and out while only touching their own personal devices. We will be enabling the QR code as of Sept. 7, 2021 and relying on parents to perform the check in and out for your child each day. Here is how it works:

How Can I Use QR Codes?

Once we enable the QR Codes, we will post several large codes in the lobby. Locate a QR Code and select the QR Code icon on your Procure App.

Selecting this icon will activate your device's camera. You will simply need to point the camera at the school's QR Code.



You will then be able to complete the sign in and out process on your own personal device. Checking child in answering health question and then signing your screen.