



Square One Kids Academy

The Right Foundation to Reach New Heights

COVID-19 - New Health and Safety Requirements

Square One Kids Academy strives to provide a safe, clean, and nurturing environment to all our families. As we begin planning to reopen our center, we are focused on taking all the necessary precautions to meet or exceed the guidelines provided by the CDC, in terms of hygiene and cleanliness. It is our responsibility to ensure the well-being of your child(ren) here at Square One and this comes with great changes, requirements, and policies that we need to comply with. Due to the higher and more complex risks due to COVID-19, we want to assure you, we are doing all we can to become well versed in what will now be required of us and you, the parents of our students. The following is a summary for you to read and become familiar with. If you have any questions or concerns about these, please know you can reach out to us. We will navigate this new road together and make it as comfortable as we can for the children.

Drop off Procedure

- As in the past, hand sanitizers will be available for everyone entering the building to sanitize their hands.
- Parents will drop their child(ren) off in the hallway outside the main door of the school. A teacher will then guide them to their classrooms.
- There will be a sign-in table in the hallway with the usual iPad sign-in, as well as a paper sign-in that must be completed by each parent. We will leave pens on the table, but we encourage parents to bring their own pens.
- Screening will take place for all staff and students prior to entering the school. This includes a temperature check, as well as visual screening.
 - Parents will be asked to take the temperature of their child(ren) using the contactless thermometer provided, show the temperature to the staff member, and enter the information in the form.
 - Parent should confirm to the school that the child does not have a fever in excess of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, shortness of breath or cough or any other symptoms of COVID-19.
 - School staff will also make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Parents will need to confirm that the child has not been in contact with any persons known to have COVID-19 during the preceding 14 days.
- Pick up will also be in the hallway outside the main glass door by the sign-in table. Parents will not be permitted inside the school.
- If any child or staff member shows signs of illness, they must stay home until they've been symptom-free without medication for at least 24 hours. A doctor's note may be required to return.

Teachers' and Visitors' Procedure:

- All staff members will be required to wear cloth masks at all times, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Handwashing will be required of all staff members before entering a classroom.
- Visitors are not permitted in the school at any time, with the exception of, emergency or law enforcement personnel and Department of Children and Families personnel. All others, including persons providing maintenance and repair services, prospective parents and prospective employees, and any other non-staff member, are strictly prohibited from entering the school.
- Dance and Yoga class will be cancelled until these restrictions are lifted by the State.



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Social Distancing Procedures:

- When feasible, children shall wear face coverings while in the school, but are not required to. Cloth face coverings will not be put on children under the age of 2 due to the danger of suffocation. Cloth coverings are not permitted while children are sleeping.
- Classes will include the same group each day and the same teachers will remain with that group each day.
- Class sizes will be adjusted to guidelines given to us by the state licensing office. Current NJ State guidance limits class sizes to a maximum of 10 children in each room.
- Use of shared spaces (entry ways, restrooms) will be carefully controlled to ensure that children and teachers maintain at least a ten foot distance of separation from children and teachers from other groups.
- Playground times will be staggered and allow for disinfection before another class may enter the playground.
- Sharing of supplies and other items will be limited. We will make individual packs of necessary tools, such as crayons, pencils, scissors, and glue sticks for each child.
- Gloves will be worn while handling food, changing diapers, or during any contact with bodily fluid.
- Field trips and special events will be canceled or postponed until further guidance from the state is provided. We are permitted to take walks outside on school grounds.
- Close person-to-person contact will be limited. This includes games involving touching or tagging, hugging, and other activities that require close contact. This is a hard one! By nature, the children want to hug their friends and teachers. We will help the children with this and find new ways for them to express their love and adoration for those around them.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures:

- Square One Kids Academy prides ourselves in maintaining a clean and safe environment for our children and now more than ever, our cleaning and disinfecting practices will be enhanced each day.
- Square One's facility is now equipped with an air purifying system that is centrally installed in our HVAC system. This system uses a technology that combines high intensity UVC lighting with a state-of-the-art process that destroys over 99% of airborne and surface contaminants.
- Throughout the day, there will be an extra focus on cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched including learning materials, supplies, games, and toys.
- Plush and cloth toys, that cannot immediately be cleaned or disinfected, will be removed from all classrooms.
- Common surfaces and areas will be regularly sanitized including doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, toilet handles, desks, chairs, cubbies, and gym equipment.
- We will continue to teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices to children to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- External cleaning company will clean the school multiple times during the week.

Food Preparation:

- Teachers will ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Handwashing will be required of staff prior to applying gloves to prepare food and after helping children to eat.
- Families will be required to provide their own food and snacks.



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Response to COVID-19 Exposure:

- Parents should inform the school immediately about any COVID-19 exposure for their child(ren) and immediate family members.
- If a staff member or child contracts or is exposed to COVID-19, they cannot be admitted to a center again until the criteria for lifting transmission based precautions and home isolation have been met and a doctor's note is provided, clearing them to attend the school again.
- All rooms and equipment used by the infected person, and persons potentially exposed to that person, will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines.

While this may seem a lot of changes, we assure you that Square One is here to help and learn these new routines and guidelines together with all our families. It has always been our philosophy that the nurturing of young children is best achieved through a partnership between families and our center. This is true now, more than ever, and together we will help the children to adapt to these new procedures.