

Sunday March 15, 2020

Dear Families,

A message from Gary T. Henry, Dean, College of Education and Human Development: Events related to coronavirus at the University of Delaware have required us to be nimble and focused on the safety and wellbeing of the families we serve and our employees. In an attempt to balance safety and wellbeing with serving our families and their children, the Dean's Office along with the Directors will be making individual decisions for each of our units on the Children's Campus – The College School, the Lab Preschool and the Early Learning Center. Also, we are attending to the thorough cleaning of the facilities. We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the leaders, teachers and staff who work on the Children's Campus to the families and children we serve. As events may continue to change rapidly, please continue to frequently check UD's coronavirus website: <https://www.udel.edu/home/coronavirus/>

We are aware of the rapidly changing developments, recommendations and guidelines with regards to the coronavirus, or COVID-19. The Early Learning Center will continue to **remain open**, focused and committed to the safety and care of our children, families and staff.

We understand that not all families have the option to work from home and many of our children rely on the ELC as their safe haven and primary source for nutritious meals.

Acknowledging this time may be stressful and chaotic, our goal is to remain a source of stability and consistent care for the children and families we serve. We will continue to follow the official guidelines set forth by the Office of Child Care Licensing, the University of Delaware and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. If the situation changes, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible.

In addition to the previous communications regarding our daily practices to maintain cleanliness and minimize spread of communicable disease, the ELC has undergone a deep cleaning this weekend. In addition, we are postponing any non-essential visits from outside individuals and organizations, and we are limiting the number of children gathered in the gym. We will continue to teach and emphasize proper handwashing techniques while supporting children's emotional well-being. We ask that families use the hand sanitation stations located in the lobby upon entering the building.

Our decision to remain open is not being taken lightly. We will continue to monitor and make decisions with regards to our operations as additional information becomes available.



Early Learning Center

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Should you decide to keep your family at home during this time, please inform your child's teacher or contact the center at 302-831-6205.

We are here to support your child and family during this time and I am happy to address any questions or concerns.

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Sincerely,

Diana Morello-DeSerio
Director
Early Learning Center