



March 14, 2020

Dear Method families,

Our board understands that childcare is essential to people's ability to earn a living. We would like to remain open to serve our families as long as we can, but we need to come together to keep our small community safe and healthy. Method does not plan to close based on Wake County Public School's decision to close; although our NC-PreK classroom will have to follow Wake Public School's guidance. When it comes to the remaining five classrooms (infants to 4-year-olds), we will take our guidance from Gov. Roy Cooper and state public health officials. If we have to close based on government instruction or exposure within our small community, the Center will undergo a deep clean and sanitation before re-opening.

We wanted to let you know about our proactive measures and future plans during our community's rising concern about coronavirus. We are asking all of our Method family to follow the Governor's guidance outside of Method to minimize your risk and health which will in turn work to minimize risks to Method, washing your hands frequently, avoid close contact, and not attend large gatherings.

Here's what we've been doing and will do to keep our families healthy:

- Method Child Development Center, like all child care centers across the state, are required to clean and sanitize daily, per state regulations. These efforts include daily sanitation of communal surfaces and toys.
- We have ordered extra cleaning supplies to help staff with that effort in case of shortages.
- We already have a cleaning company, [Enviro-Master's](#), which cleans and disinfects the center twice a month. They were Method the first week of March and are scheduled to come again the week of March 16. We pay for their [Sani-Guard](#) treatment, a hospital-grade disinfectant that is 99.99% effective in killing germs and disease-causing pathogens such as MRSA, Norovirus, Influenza, H1N1, HIV, Hepatitis, E. coli, Streptococcus, Salmonella, and Tuberculosis.
- Starting Monday, we will have staff take their temperature upon arrival to work. Any staff member with an above normal temperature will be sent home immediately.
- Starting Monday, no tours will be offered to prospective families. We will reassess whether to resume tours on Monday, March 30, 2020, based on guidance from public health officials.
- Starting Monday, all delivery persons will no longer be allowed inside the center. All deliveries will be met outside by staff.
- We have an Eagle Scout project scheduled for the playground next weekend. We will limit access to the inside of the center and board members will clean and sanitize any areas (adult bathroom, door handles, etc.) that are accessed and touched.

- We are pausing any projects that our regular handyman had planned to undertake, including a little library installation, new kitchen cabinets and rehabs of classroom doors. We will reassess scheduling these projects in April.

Here's what we need you to do:

- Starting Monday, we are asking families to limit the number of caregivers and family members who bring their child to the center. One parent/guardian per child at drop-off or pick-up. If parents of twins need help, staff will be happy to assist getting your children into your car.
- Starting Monday, we are asking families to bring only the enrolled children to the center, including school-age children enrolled in after-school and before-school programs.
- Please wash your hands and your child's hands as soon as you enter the classroom, which we all should be doing anyway per state childcare guidelines.
- Please alert the director if you plan to take your child out of school temporarily. It will help us plan better for the families who are here.
- Please keep your child home if you or any member of your immediate family starts showing symptoms of COVID-19. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- Please keep your child home if you or any member of your immediate family has been exposed to anyone who tested positive for COVID-19. Please inform the center's director immediately.
- Please alert the center's director immediately if you or any member of your family has tested positive for COVID-19.

As a small nonprofit, we have about \$45,000 in fixed monthly expenses, including rent, utilities and payroll, and will suffer a significant loss of income from the closing of the NC PreK classroom or possibly state vouchers due to lack of attendance. Based on frugal financial stewardship over the last several years, we have enough savings to absorb such a hit and continue to pay our staff. However, if we close for two weeks or a month, we ask full-pay families to have some patience with the Board. We would work out a schedule for discounted rates over the summer to make up for the lack of childcare now. We ask for your understanding about the challenges the Center faces during this unforeseen pandemic.

Please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback. This is uncharted territory for many of us. We appreciate your help in keeping our children and families safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Shannon Deaton, Chair

Method Board of Directors

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