

First Friends Preschool

ConVal School District 2020 Reopening Preschool Document

*ConVal has provided guidance in their
Reopening Document*

<https://1tw6p42hake44flly017pmsy-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CVSD-Fall-2020-Reopening-Plan.pdf>

The following additional guidance is for First Friends families.

FIRST FRIENDS PRESCHOOL

What will First Friends Preschool look like?

Much of First Friends Preschool will look the same. Children will be learning how to get along with others, engaging in a preschool curriculum that promotes language, literacy, mathematics, motor skills, as well as developing a curiosity and knowledge of our outside world.

This year we will be utilizing our outdoor learning spaces more and will be organizing the classroom and its materials with safety in mind.

Everyone will be wearing or learning to wear masks. Each child will have their own snack and lunch.

Preschools will be their own pod and will not be interacting with the greater school community. The preschool class will be divided into small groups to enable physical distancing, and small group teaching while indoors. Outdoor teaching activities will be implemented as much as possible in a small group fashion, sharing spaces and resources, alternately.

We will utilize outdoor space as much as possible and will organize the classroom furniture and routines with physical distancing in mind. This may mean that half the class is outdoors while half the class is inside engaged in free choice time with fewer bodies in the room. It may mean that handwashing occurs in two places and that waiting chairs are spaced appropriately.

Daily schedules will be flexible to arrival and departure, given physical distancing and parent transport. Morning schedules will continue to include circle time lessons, individual teaching, music/movement, project, and snack, recess and child-centered unstructured play. Full time students schedule will add lunch, rest time, small group activities, individual teaching and recess.

Please refer to your First Friends Preschool Parent Handbook for a daily schedule.

Dropping off and Picking up Children

The preschool program for the three year olds will be from 8:45am-11:30 am Monday through

Friday. On Wednesday, the 4 year old program will also end at 11:30 am. The 4 year olds will stay until 3:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

All staff entering the building must wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth at all times. Parents should also wear a mask when interacting with staff at pick up and drop off times. Parents, guardians and visitors will not be allowed inside the building at this time.

Preschoolers who ride the bus will wear masks and have assigned seating. Seating will have physical distancing protocols in mind with 1 child per seat. Bus drivers will wear face masks.

Each elementary school building will have designated entrances for preschool students. Your child's classroom teacher will notify you of arrival times and entrance locations.

When a child arrives at school they will be screened using the following procedure outlined in the ConVal Fall [Reopening Document](#). Temperatures will be checked, and questions regarding health and travel asked as part of the screening process (see below).

Communication with staff should be done via email or phone to support physical distancing recommendations. Teachers will remain committed to ensuring family engagement. Teachers will be available as much as possible to keep all families updated and to answer/address the needs of the children. Please check your notifications regularly regarding potential changes.

Student and Staff Screening Procedure

Preschool will follow the same screening procedures for ConVal staff and students:

- All students and staff must screen at home prior to arrival to school and again upon arrival to the school building
- Temperature will be checked with no-touch thermal scanning thermometer
 - If temperature 100.0 degrees fahrenheit or higher:
 - Staff will be sent home
 - Students will wear a mask, if possible, and will remain with school nurse/staff in COVID-19 accommodation room to await parent pick up or dismissal
- The following questions will be asked:
 - Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever and chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches

- Headaches
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Have you had close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have had COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 - Have you traveled in the prior 14 days outside of New England (New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island)?

Mask Wearing

Given that both the CDC and DHHS highly recommend their use, the school district's policy during a pandemic is that all adults and students will be required to wear a face mask while on school grounds. The mask wearing expectation will be addressed as a developmental skill as any other daily living skill that needs to be learned by preschoolers. Staff and parents will be actively working on this skill. Face masks need to provide adequate coverage of both the nose and the mouth. Regularly scheduled mask breaks will be incorporated into the daily schedule. Special exceptions for documented medical conditions needs will be considered. Additional recommendations can be found at:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/covid-mask-guidance.pdf>

Face Shields are not currently permitted as a stand alone substitute for face masks as they may protect the wearer, but do not necessarily protect the people surrounding the wearer from their droplets. You may see staff members wearing face shields as an additional layer of protection.

Illness Policy and Monitoring

Children and all staff will have their temperatures checked daily before entering the classrooms. Children's temperatures will be taken at the door upon arriving then randomly throughout the day. Any student with a fever of more than 100.0 degrees fahrenheit must remain out of school for 72 hours after the fever has broken without fever reducing medications. Please procedures outlined in the ConVal Fall [Reopening Document](#).

Keeping Healthy

First Friends Preschool will take every precaution for your child to stay healthy! Staff training

and communications regarding health and safety measures remain ongoing. Consistent hand washing, disinfecting, and cleaning of the schools will be performed many times during the day by the staff and again at night by custodial staff..

Children will be required to wash their hands additional times during the day. At minimum, hand hygiene will occur when entering the classroom, before and after meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, and prior to leaving for home (if the child is still inside). This may cause a child's hands to become more dry or raw than normal. We ask that you use lotion on their hands nightly to help keep your child's hands from becoming overly dry or sore.

Classroom materials will be disinfected after use and some materials will be provided and labeled in containers for individual use (markers, crayons, etc).

Children's cubbies, bins, or hanging hook areas will be sanitized regularly.

We are requesting that children not bring toys from home during this time. Classroom toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used. Children's books, like other paper-based materials, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures. A comfort item and blanket will be allowed and will only be used at rest time. It will be stored in a plastic bag in the child's cubby/bin and sent home for regular washing. Playground toys and structures will also be cleaned and disinfected regularly. No standing water tables/sensory tables will be allowed. Children will be encouraged to engage in activities that promote natural spacing and minimal congregating. Hand sanitizer is available on the playground as well as throughout the building.

Children should bring a snack/lunch from home daily. There will also be grab and go breakfast and lunch bags available at school. We will not have a communal snack this year as has been the norm in preschool. Please plan snacks and lunches that are easily opened by your child.

What can parents do to help?

Please send in two changes of clothes and any diapering needs preferably in a disposable shopping bag. You can let classroom staff know if clothing should stay in the classroom for the week or travel daily in your child's backpack. As needed, personal items will be sent home at the end of the week for proper washing. This may include nap time items or other items that may need proper cleaning (please remember to wash the backpack too!).

Please send in two clean masks daily. We will have some available for use in case.

Personal water bottles are not permitted at this time. Disposable cups will be available.

Please make sure all your child's items are clearly labeled.

Help your child practice wearing a mask.

Send snacks and lunches that your child can manage independently. Help your child by having them practice opening and closing their lunch box and food containers if they are bringing lunch to school.

Let us know your preferred way of communication. Regular communication with your classroom teacher will help us address issues and concerns as they come up.

Tuition Payments during a Pandemic Closing

Student tuition will be billed at a reduced rate during the times during the calendar year that the school district is in remote learning.

The Business Office will keep all families updated on payments due. If at any time during a school closing, or your own need to be out of work because COVID-19 presents a financial hardship, please do not hesitate to let us know so that we can partner with your family during that time of need.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION!