

Mask Policy
September 2020

Per direction of the Office of Early Childhood **all** children over age 3 are required to wear masks effective September 21, 2020. The following is the policy of St. Peter's Early Learning Center regarding the wearing of masks.

- All children 3 years of age and older will wear masks while attending St. Peter's ELC.
- CDC protocols for wearing and removing masks will be followed.
- Parents will supply masks for their children. Parents are asked to send in an extra clean mask in their child's bag.
- In the event that a mask becomes unwearable during the day the extra mask will be used. If the child does not have an extra mask we will have disposable masks on site for their use.
- Children will not be required to wear masks while eating, sleeping/resting or while outdoors. During meals/snacks children will be seated as far apart as possible. During nap/rest time cots will be placed 6 feet apart.
- When the masks are not being worn they will be hung up in the child's cubbie.
- If a child is not accustomed to wearing a mask, the adults will assist the child by showing them the proper way to put on and remove the mask. Gentle reminders about wearing the mask will be given to the children.
- If a child is unable to keep their mask on they will need to remain socially distant from the other children (6').
- For any child who has just turned 3, they will be given time (up to 2 months) to acclimate themselves to wearing the mask.

Exceptions to mask wearing are:

- A child with a **documented** medical condition, special health care needs or developmental needs (such as sensory integration) for whom wearing a mask would be contrary to their health or safety
- A child with a **documented** disability or special education need for whom wearing a mask would be contrary to their needs
- Children and staff involved with certain special education and related services and activities like speech/language therapy or where lip reading is required will be allowed to remove their mask intermittently.

Guidelines for cleaning masks will be sent home to each family

If a parent or guardian refuses to have their child wear a mask the child will not be able to attend our facility.