



## WESTMINSTER

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Dear Parents,

The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), our licensor, has issued the following emergency regulation for childcare programs

*... all people in a childcare setting are mandated to wear a mask indoors.  
The mandate applies to all people age 2 and older who are able to  
medically tolerate a face covering, regardless of vaccination status."*

As a result of this mandate, children two years old and older will be required to wear a mask indoors here at WECP. Children under two years old may not wear a mask due to suffocation issues. We will begin our mask policy on **Monday, September 20, 2021**. This will provide you with time to practice wearing a mask with your child.

Especially with children under five years of age, appropriate and consistent use of masks may be very challenging. As a result, we will work together with you and your child to help make this transition as easy as possible. Together, we will help children learn how to put on and take off a mask, wear a mask correctly around the nose and mouth, limit frequent touching, and limit sucking, drooling, and biting the mask.

Please adhere to the following to help keep everyone safe as we work to implement this mask policy:

- Please provide three masks (labeled with your child's name) as well as two labeled plastic bags. One baggie will be for clean masks and one for dirty masks.
- Masks will not be worn during breakfast, lunch, and snack time as well as nap time.
- Masks must fit your child's face appropriately (snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face).
- Masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton) work best.
- Teachers will encourage children to wear masks **but not** force or reprimand. We realize that some children will have a difficult time tolerating a mask.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cynthia Lynn-Garbe Ph.D.  
Director

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**NURTURING HEART, MIND, AND COMMUNITY**

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