

**** keeping the safety of the children, parents and teachers is our top priority ****

Spring 2022 playgroup guidelines:

The number of children we will have per group/day is **10** (of max. allowable 15).

Due to the new variants of the COVID-19 virus, we ask that all children, except for the ones under the age of 2, wear a mask at all times except during food and drink breaks. Any parents unwilling to have their child wear a mask should not sign up for playgroup with us.

Health:

For the sake of keeping everyone safe and healthy, we ask that you do your best to avoid any risk of exposure to COVID in your daily life. Accordingly, this means applying best practices for hygiene (frequent hand-washing), avoiding people who are visibly sick, maintaining physical distancing from others outside your household, and the use of masks, to the extent possible. By doing these things, you will not only keep yourselves healthy, but you will help keep our Winter Playgroup safer.

Please, proactively check your child's temperature before leaving the house; children that have elevated temperature, or a runny nose, or cough, will not be allowed to participate that day.

If your child is showing any symptoms of an oncoming illness such as a cold, vomiting or diarrhea or if you suspect any possible exposure to illness, we will ask that you keep your child home that day and inform us accordingly.

Travel & Social Gatherings:

Should you be planning domestic US or international travel, or be participating in big social gatherings (like birthday parties) please keep in mind that you will need to have your child take a PCR test 3 days after arriving back home and wait for the results before sending your child back to playgroup. Please also keep in mind that missed days due to travel cannot be refunded, nor can we offer make ups.

Covid specific Health:

Should any child or teacher show symptoms of COVID, he/she should get tested immediately and should the test show to be positive, we will immediately halt playgroup for 2-5 days for the group affected; we will inform all parents of children who had contact with a person tested positive and set the date (3 days from first exposure contact) when their child should get tested. Once we have the results we will evaluate re-opening of the group.

If a parent shows symptoms of COVID, or is tested positive, they should keep their child home for at least 5 days, and if no symptoms show, do a test before returning him/her to playgroup.

Due to the amount of false results of Rapid PCR tests, we require either a RT-PCR, or Antigen test. There are more places in NYC now that test for free and return PCR tests within 24hrs (LabQ, MedRite).

Drop-off/Pick-up:

Drop off time is at 9:00am; 9:15am the latest, at which time we will leave. It is really important to arrive within that time window, as it's otherwise disruptive to our flow.

Pick-up time is at 1:00pm. If you are not the one picking up your child, please let your babysitter or designated pickup person know to be there on time, or 5 minutes early.

Drop-off and pickup locations will be inside the park near the Litchfield Villa. Coordinates and a map are listed below. To avoid clustering, please respect the safe distancing rules between family groups at pickup/drop-off times.

For the safety of your child, **please make sure there is a clear and verbal handover**, especially during pick-up times and please do not encourage your child to run towards you before we have reached the pick-up point. We also ask you kindly to let any authorized caregiver know not to meet us along the way back to pick up your child; it creates a lot of confusion. If you need to pick up your child earlier than 1:00pm, please let us know and we will either head back to the pick-up point earlier, or make arrangements with you.

If your child used a scooter to get to playgroup, please take it with you after drop off. Children should not bring any of their own toys to Spring playgroup.

What to wear:

It is really important that your child wears the right clothing for the right weather. In the beginning of Spring season it will still be very cold; please dress your child accordingly.

For any normal day, please always pack the following:

- 2 sets of spare socks
- Spare pants and a spare t-shirt/shirt.
- Rain jacket if it's overcast that day.

For a day when rain is predicted, please have your child wear waterproof shoes, or rain boots, along with a waterproof jacket and pants or a muddy-buddy, like **this one**.

Since the weather services have been unreliable lately, please err on the safe side to pack rain gear and warm clothing; we have seen days predicted with 30% chance of rain turn quickly and surprisingly into torrential downpours.

Please mark your child's belongings (with marker, tape or tags) - water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, etc.....

Other notes:

We will wash hands with water and soap frequently throughout the playgroup day.

Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied before children arrive for playgroup.

Please make sure your child goes to the bathroom right before going to playgroup.

For any children that are not potty trained, please pack diapers and wipes.

Important! - Please do a tick check as soon as you get home.

Summary of guidelines:

Number of children per group: 10

Ratio of children per adult: 3-4

Masks: No mask, no playgroup.

Drop off: 9:00 am

Pickup: 1:00pm

Location: Litchfield Villa

Things to bring: Water, snacks, lunch, hat, rain gear (weather dependent); 2nd set of dry clothes.

Things not to bring: Toys, scooters

What to do if your child has symptoms of illness, such as temperature, runny nose, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or a rash: Keep child at home. Notify us.

What to do if anyone in your immediate family has symptoms of COVID: Keep the child at home and notify us immediately. Please get tested.

What happens if a child, parent of a child, or a teacher develops symptoms of COVID: Playgroup will be stopped temporarily. Persons infected and immediate household members must get a PCR or Antigen test. We will notify group affected when to get tested, after which, provided there is no transmission, re-open playgroup.

Lunch: please prepare easy to eat items and pack them so they are easy to open and get.

Sunscreen & bug spray: please apply on child before drop off.

Scooters: cannot be left with the playgroup

Tick check: please do this every day you get home from the park.

Cancellation policy: If we have to cancel playgroup due to inclement weather, we will offer a make up day. Make ups need to be completed within the semester and cannot be carried over to the Fall 22 term.

There are no refunds or credits for days missed due to illness, travel or any other reason; a make up day is possible solely at our discretion and only if there is space.

If a parent/family needs to cancel playgroup at any time during the course the spring semester a 2 week written notice needs to be given and 50 % of the remaining tuition shall be paid, unless a suitable replacement is found.

If we have to cancel a playgroup day or more due to (a child's or teacher's) symptoms of COVID-19, we will offer make ups for the missed days. If we have to close playgroup due to city/state regulations, we will refund 50% of the days missed.

Make ups: Make ups for missed days are only possible if there is any space available on an alternate day. Makeups cannot be carried over to Fall 22 playgroup.

Drop-off/Pickup Location - Litchfield Villa:

Google maps: [40°40'03.5"N 73°58'26.7"W](#)

From Prospect Park West near 5th Street enter the drive to the Litchfield Villa and we will be on the left side of the driveway.

