

April 17, 2020

Dear New Day Families,

We hope that this letter finds you safe and healthy! The Board of Directors for New Day Children's Center met on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 and agreed unanimously to extend New Day's temporary closure until the Governor begins to lift NY PAUSE restrictions. We learned yesterday he has extended NY PAUSE through May 15, 2020. If New Day is able to re-open at that time, May 15th will be a prep day for staff with the first day for children to return of Monday, May 18, 2020. Childcare fees remain suspended temporarily.

As information about coronavirus changes daily, it is difficult to imagine what it will look like when the Governor begins to re-open the economy and bring businesses and schools back online. It is likely that when New Day does re-open, we will need to incorporate some form of social distancing within classrooms and offices. In the coming weeks, New Day's administrative staff will be calling you to gather information about your anticipated childcare needs for May through August. We realize that your childcare needs are subject to change, and what you tell us is not binding, we just need to plan accordingly.

Despite the shutdown for the last month, Megan Dyer, Teresa Boulton, Anne Forbes and Karin Scott have been working at a reduced level at New Day. Classrooms and storage are getting cleaned and cleaned out. Many teachers have stopped in periodically to work in their classrooms. The Board would like to express its appreciation to Megan and Karin for their quick work in submitting a successful CARES Act ~ Paycheck Protection Plan application with the incredible assistance of Bowers & Company and Watertown Savings Bank. While we do not know when the funding will become available, New Day has been approved and we look forward to bringing staff back on payroll soon.

This health crisis is unlike anything we have known in our lifetimes and information and guidelines change daily. We promise to continue monitoring and evaluating information and guidance provided by the Office of Children and Family Services, and state and federal agencies. The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet again on May 20th, however we will move that meeting accordingly to plan New Day's next steps.

We will continue to keep you informed and up-to-date via email. If you need to reach administrative staff at any time over the next few weeks, please leave a message and your call will be returned promptly.

Again, we thank you for your patience and commitment to the well-being of our children, staff and greater community. We look forward to welcoming our children and staff back to New Day very soon!

Sincerely,

Karen Freeman
President – Board of Directors