

May 7, 2020

Dear New Day Families,

We hope that this letter finds you safe and healthy! The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and agreed unanimously to re-open New Day Children's Center in a limited capacity on Monday, May 18, 2020. New York State and Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS) guidance limits classroom capacity to 10 people, including the two teachers. Staff will return on Monday, May 11 to begin preparing classrooms accordingly.

As you know, Megan Dyer and Teresa Boulton reached out to all families earlier this week to ascertain childcare needs. We are thrilled that, even with capacity restrictions, we will be able to accommodate the 53 children of essential workers who need childcare immediately. As NY PAUSE is lifted in stages, we hope that social distancing/capacity guidelines will allow us to accommodate more children in the coming weeks. If your childcare timeline changes from what was conveyed to Megan or Teresa, please be sure to call the office (315-788-1787) to update your information.

When you are ready, we ask that all parents call New Day in advance to plan for and confirm a date for your child's return.

As I'm sure you can imagine, administrative staff have been hard at work preparing to welcome children back to New Day in the safest manner possible, ordering supplies and working with OCFS and Public Health on reopening guidelines. Health and safety concerns will require many changes to what used to be "standard operating procedures". Next week, you will receive an email from Megan explaining those procedures and detailing new precautions and processes for staff and children.

For those not returning to New Day on May 18, childcare fees will remain suspended temporarily. Additionally, we hope to begin School Age Care on Monday, June 29th if social distancing and New York State guidelines permit New Day do so safely.

We will continue to monitor guidance provided by OCFS, and state and federal agencies. The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet again on May 20th to approve New Day's 2020-2021 operating budget and review the latest guidance. As permitted capacities increase, we will likely plan to reinstate a minimum weekly fee to hold your spot until you return.

Again, we thank you for your patience and commitment to the well-being of our children, staff and greater community. Our staff and teachers are excited and looking forward welcoming many children back to New Day on May 18, and more in the coming weeks!

Sincerely,

Karen Freeman
President – Board of Directors

