



# Stittsville Co-operative Nursery School

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## **SCNS COVID-19 Program FAQ**

**\*\* Answers to these questions are based upon Ministry of Education and Ministry of health Operational Guidelines \*\***

- 1 Regarding parents not entering classrooms: My child is shy and this is their first experience away from home. Is there a way I could be with my child just for the first few days?**

SCNS understands the uniqueness of each child and will be implementing many strategies to ease the transition into school. We value communication and will set time aside to discuss any of your concerns via phone calls, emails and/or video calls.

- 2 Will the rates change?**

SCNS is committed to Access & Affordability. We have not changed our daily rate in years. The monthly amount is calculated but adding the number of days in the school year and dividing it into 10 equal monthly payments.

- 3 My child is in a position where she may need assistance (hand being held while walking), is any physical contact permitted?**

SCNS strives to foster a safe, welcoming and caring environment for all and we recognize the importance of taking children's stages of development into consideration. We will provide a sense of belonging, engagement, expression and well-being by supporting children in any way possible (including a helping hand, a comforting hug...)

- 4 Will children be strongly encouraged to wear masks?**

Children in preschool are not required to wear masks in childcare premises. SCNS will be supportive of families who wish for their child to wear a mask but it will not be enforced by the teaching staff.

- 5 Will children (individually or groups) be encouraged to physically distance?**

Children and staff will be in their own distinct groups and will not intermingle. Within each group, physical distancing will be encouraged but may be unavoidable at times.

- 6 Will children eat with spacing around them?**

Children will be spread out, as much as possible, during snack time but likely closer than 2 meters from each other.

- 7 What other precautions will be implemented at snack time?"**

Tables are disinfected and children/staff hands are washed before and after snack. SCNS will supply disposable cups and napkins for snack as a precaution.

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**8 Do program times of the SCNS stay the same?**

Yes!

2yr program runs from 9:15-11:45am

3yr program runs from 9am-12pm

**9 Can I keep my child home for 1-2 days in the program is full time or alternating?**

As a parent you have the choice to keep your “healthy child” home for as many days your feel necessary. If you feel your child won’t have a great day with us and needs a break that is fine. Unfortunately, the fees are set for the year in the 5 day format so we cannot accommodate a part-time program offering because we cannot back-fill another child into the program when your child is at home.

**10 Will my child still need a back pack?**

For the interim, we ask that families send a clearly marked Ziploc bag with a change of clothes, diapers, wipes, etc. to be stored at school. This will minimize items being stored and left in cubbies for the time being. As restrictions and the weather changes, we will update you on this policy.

**11 Would you, by any chance, consider including 4 year old children in the 3 year old program who are not attending JK this year, if your 3 year old numbers were low?**

We will consider adding JK & SK children to the 3 year old program if space allows.

**12 Since most of the children will back to school in September, we would like to keep an eye on the COVID-19 pandemic in Ottawa before making the decision.**

We understand that some families may want to 'wait' before completing their registration. Please note that a non-refundable registration fee is due with your registration form to hold your child’s spot in the program. Without the registration fee, SCNS cannot hold your spot while you are making a decision.

**13 Is there an option to consider admission in January (“second semester”) depending on cases of Covid 19 in Ottawa.**

Depending on enrolment as of September, we will only offer January admission if there is a withdraw from the program and this will be based on the waiting list. If you wish to wait until January to send your child, SCNS will required payment in full of September through December to hold that spot.

**14 What is SCNS’s procedure if a student/teacher tests positive?**

First and foremost, Ottawa Public Health will be notified immediately and the person will be instructed to self-isolate for 14 days and they will be excluded from the program. An email will go out to families informing them. Ottawa Public Health will be involved and their control measures will guide SCNS through the process.

\*\* for more information, please refer to SCNS’s Enhanced Health & Safety Policy

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**15 If we decide to withdraw our child mid-year, what is the penalty?**

If written notification of your child's withdrawal is received between the 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of the month, all subsequent monthly fees will stop. Written notification received between the 16<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> require payment for the next month. After April, payment for May & June will be required as we will not be able to fill the child's spot in the class!

**16 What is the cleaning schedule for the school and toys?**

The school will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of program each day by SCNS Staff. In addition to that, the A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School custodians will come in to do further cleaning in the evening.

**17 As a lot of the items will have to be removed from the classroom, what will a typical day be like for my child?**

As much as possible, activities will be set up to encourage social distancing, including visual cues on the floor for guidance. Activities will continue to promote opportunities to socialize and connect with one another.

\*\* for more information, please refer to SCNS's Enhanced Health & Safety Policy.

**18 Will there be an opportunity for the children, parents and SCNS staff to meet before my child starts school?.**

We value the importance of building relationships and strive to connect with children on every level.

The first week of the program is reserved for the child and one parent to come into the school to hand in forms and sign some documents. This is a scheduled meeting with a time limit. All adult will be required to wear a mask but it will give you and your child an opportunity to see the school and meet the teachers.