



Back-to-School Plan

Fall 2020

Purpose

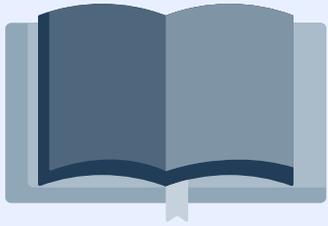
The purpose of this presentation is to provide up-to-date information about 2020-21 so families can make an informed decision.

Options to Consider:

- Daily onsite, in-person instruction *or*
- Daily remote instruction *or*
- Unenrollment from the program

OUR GOAL

To implement all possible mitigating measures so that each student can safely return to in-person instruction every day, while preserving the integrity and benefit of the early childhood experience.



Guidance



The Young Explorers team developed this plan by following the guidance provided by the:

- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- Center for Disease Control: Child Care and Schools (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

And input from:

- Local school leaders
- District 28 Legal Advisors
- Community child care settings that have remained open for essential workers
- District 28 families

New Understandings

Flexibility is Key!

- We all need to exercise patience, flexibility, grace, and the assumption of positive intent.
- This year will not be “business as usual.”
- There is no way to eliminate all risk.
- All school plans & operations are impacted by local/regional health conditions.
- We must be prepared to adjust practices at any time and possibly with no advanced notice.
- Effective mitigation strategies do exist.

The YE Approach to 2020: Rethinking Early Childhood

Out with the Old

Instead of trying to figure out how we could continue with our regular daily schedule and add in mitigating measures (square peg in a round hole approach), we decided to start from scratch.

In with the New

When reinventing YE, the base point starts with a room layout already set up for physical distancing and all possible safety protocols established. Now, how do we design meaningful instruction on top of that?

In-Person Instruction

The Basics

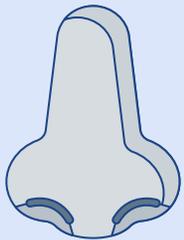


Daily Health Check

Parents will be required to self-certify student wellness daily by answering the following questions:

1. Has your child experienced any of the following symptoms during the last 24 hours?

- Fever (over 100.4)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Fatigue
- New loss or decreased sense of smell or taste
- Cough
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Body or muscle aches
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



(Continued)

Daily Health Check

(Continued)

2. Has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
3. Has your child been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
4. Has your child traveled outside the State of Illinois in the past 14 days?

If the answer is "yes" to any of the first three questions, do not come to school.

Staff must also self-certify daily.

The district is developing a technology solution to make this self-certifying process as easy as possible.



Face Coverings



- Cloth face coverings are required for everyone inside schools.
- Please make sure your child has several washable, reusable face coverings.
- Exceptions will be made only with a doctor's note.
- YE staff will have alternative options available should a child experience difficulty with face coverings. All medical and developmental factors will be carefully considered.
- Face coverings are not required outside while everyone is socially distanced.
- Outdoor breaks or other types of face covering breaks are being planned as part of the schedule.

Handwashing/Hand Sanitizer



Students and staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds throughout the day.

- Classrooms & bathrooms will have visuals of handwashing steps.
- Staff will be trained in proper hand-washing protocols.
- Students will participate in developmentally-appropriate hand-washing procedures.
- Program staff will supervise handwashing stations.
- Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available in multiple locations of the classroom and program settings.



Sanitization: Classroom & Materials

- High-touch areas will be frequently cleaned & each classroom/program setting will be equipped with sanitizer and wipes to clean surfaces throughout the day.
- All classroom/program settings will be cleaned between the AM & PM sessions.
- All cleaning & sanitizing procedures will follow CDC guidelines with EPA-approved disinfectants.
- HVAC systems are being evaluated to insure maximum outdoor air intake and highest level of air filtration allowable. Windows will be open when weather allows.
- Nightly cleaning will follow CDC guidelines with EPA-approved disinfectants.

Sanitization: Classroom & Materials

- Use of shared materials/toys will be restricted to the greatest extent possible. Any materials or equipment that must be shared will be sanitized after each use or placed in a receptacle away from students to be sanitized later.
- Students will be provided with individual supply bins for instructional activities.
- All soft surfaces & toys have been removed from the classroom.
- Water fountains will be blocked but the bottle filling stations will be available.





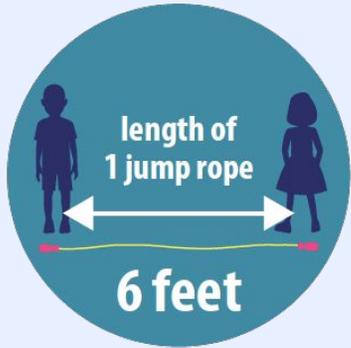
Student Contact

Toileting/Diapering:

YE staff will continue to support diapering and toileting during the school day. All program staff will participate in CDC recommended protocols training.

Comforting Students:

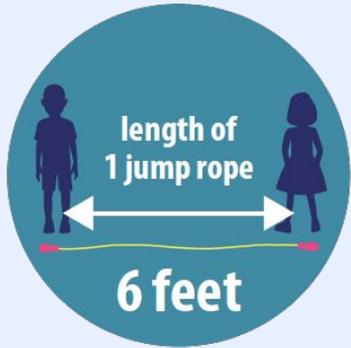
It is extremely important for YE staff to continue to support students' social-emotional needs and provide comfort as they have always done. All program staff will participate in training regarding CDC recommended protocols as well as social-emotional best practices.



Drop-off

Parents, students, and staff must wear a facial covering during drop-off.

- **Car:** Parents will be asked to remain in their cars. Program staff will get students out of the car and students will go directly into their classrooms.
- **Bus:** Program staff will be present on all bus routes. Staff will walk students on the bus and secure any harnesses.



Pick-Up

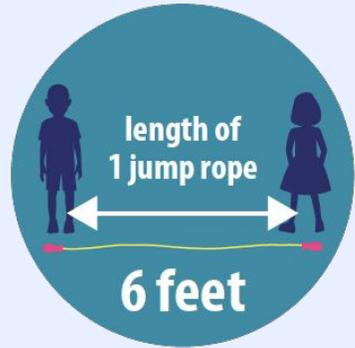
Parents, students, and staff must wear a facial covering during pick-up.

- **Car:** Students will be dismissed directly from their classroom doors and walked to the car. Parents will secure their child in car seats.
- **Bus:** Program staff will be present on all bus routes. Staff will undo any harnesses and walk students off the bus.

In-Person Instruction

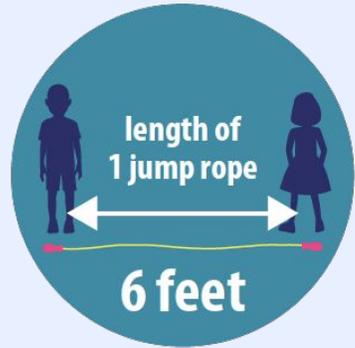
The New Model





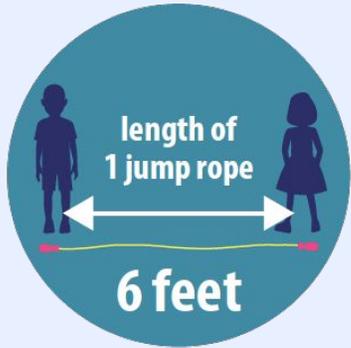
Social Distancing: In the Classroom

- YE classrooms can not exceed 15 students and will have a minimum of two full-time adults (teacher and assistant).
- Related services staff will also be present in the classrooms for the majority of the school day.
- Each classroom will be divided into at least 3 instructional pods of no more than 5 students per pod. Students will remain in assigned pods for a minimum of 2 weeks.



Social Distancing: Instructional Pods

- Student pods will participate in instructional activities in 3 separate areas of the classroom. Each pod/instructional area will be more than 6 feet apart.
- Within the pod, students will maintain as much social distance as possible (6 feet apart) from each other based upon the activity.
- If distancing is not possible in an activity area, close contact with a face covering will be limited to 15 minutes or less.



Instructional Pod Example

Pod 1: Opening Meeting (20 minutes)

- Students sit in assigned cube chairs all 6 feet apart

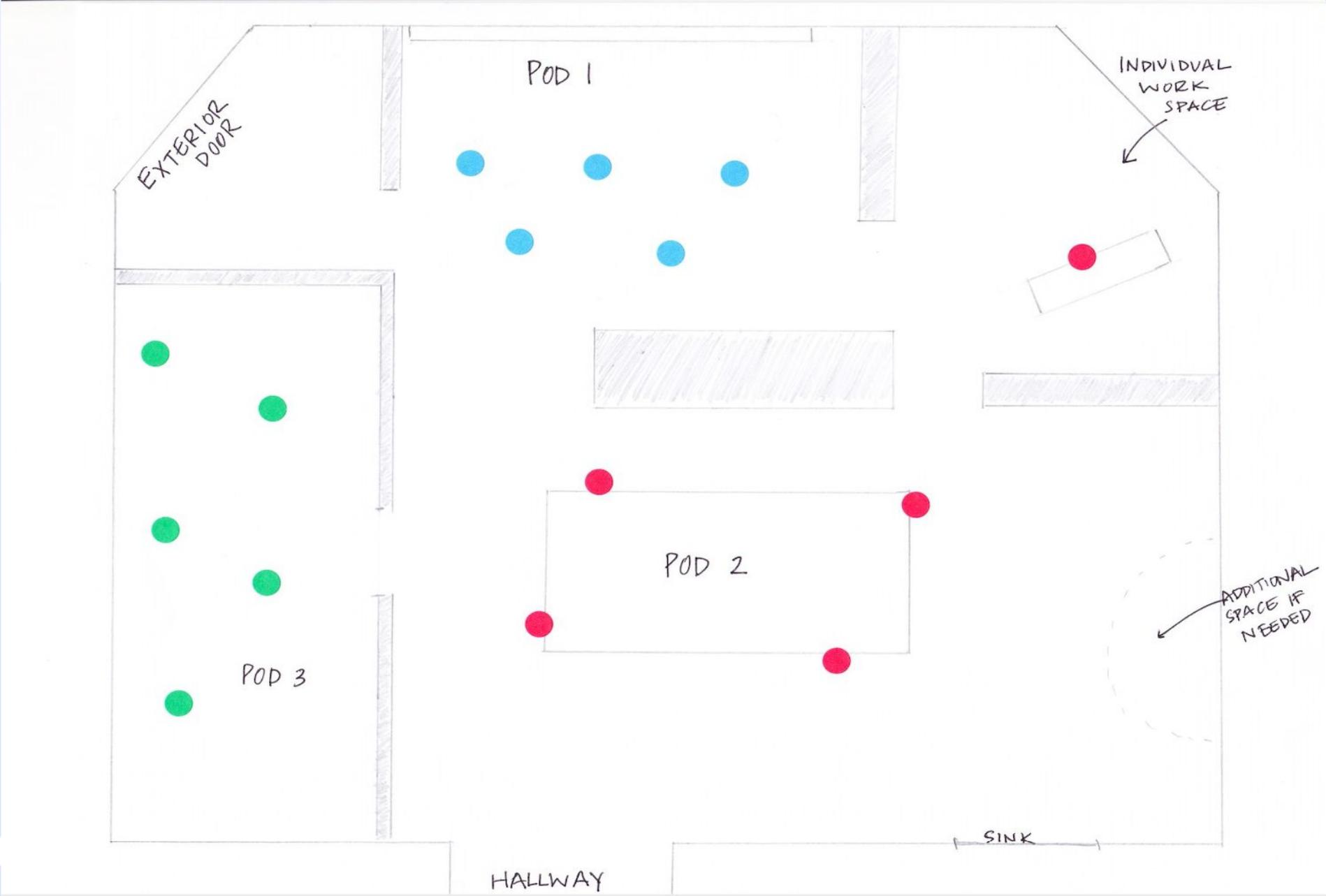
Pod 2: Tablework (20 minutes)

- Students sit 6 feet apart in assigned chairs at the table

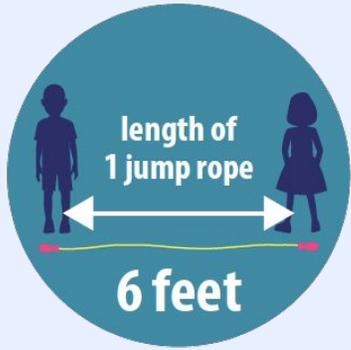
Pod 3: Investigative Play (15 minutes)

- Students engage in pretend play with 1 other student. Play space for 1-2 students will be approximately 45 square feet.

Sample Classroom Layout



Social Distancing: Structured Language & Learning Classroom



- The SLLC will not exceed 8 students with 4 adults (1 teacher, 1 Speech-Language Pathologist, 2 assistants).
- Instructional Pods will be similar to that previously described with no more than 2 students per pod and will maintain as much social distance within the pod as possible.
- Lunch: Students will be placed more than 6 feet apart and provided mobile plexiglass dividers.
- Rest: Cots will be placed more than 6 feet apart.



Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor Classroom remains an integral part of the YE school day but it will look different. In the past, all YE classrooms went outside for the same 30-minutes each day & activities encouraged students to play with others from different classrooms.

New Model:

- Students will remain with their own classrooms.
- When outside, face coverings may be removed, if 6-foot physical distancing is maintained. We are consulting with our YE physical therapist to provide large group, gross motor activities that maximize distancing.
- Outdoor areas will be created for students to take breaks from face coverings if social distancing can not be maintained during an activity.
- The use of shared materials will be restricted to items that can be quickly sanitized between users and/or individual supplies will be provided to students
- The YE program will have a large tent to hold outdoor learning and activities, even if it rains.



Specials

(still under construction)

YE staff are working hard to reinvent a new way of providing Specials to each classroom. We still plan to have Caring Community, Motor Magic, and Young Scientists with staff traveling to each classroom. More information will be shared as plans are developed.





Remote Learning

- YE has created a task force to develop a more robust, synchronous approach to remote learning.
- The YE Task Force is using the following guidance in developing a remote learning program:
 - Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP)
 - YE Parent Survey input
- Multiple factors of what exactly remote learning will include are dependent on the number of students participating



Remote Learning

Here is what we do know, based on feedback from our parent survey:

- Each YE student participating in remote learning will be provided with a school-issued iPad.
- Continued use of the Activity Grid, Seesaw, and Zoom
- Access to apps directly aligned with our curriculum like Handwriting Without Tears, Jolly Phonics, and Social-Emotional Learning
- Increased direct instruction time through Zoom
- Remote learning instruction will be aligned with the unit being taught for in-person instruction
- A more predictable, structured schedule will be implemented (example: Specials activities sent out on the same day each week, pairing certain lessons from the activity grid to follow direct Zoom instruction, etc.)
- Individual kits will be available for pick-up that include materials aligned to suggested learning activities.



In the event of a positive COVID-19 case

Young Explorers will follow the same procedures as the rest of Northbrook School District 28 in the event of a positive COVID-19 case.

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness will not be allowed into the school
- Current CDC and IDPH guidelines for students who are suspected of having COVID-19, whether they have been tested or not, state that 24 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever-reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared.
- Any individual within the school environment who shows symptoms will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population and sent home.
- When a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs, all families whose children are within the same classroom will be notified.
However, the name of the infected person cannot be shared, as that is a violation of federal law.



Tuition Information: Special Education and At-Risk Categories

Tuition will continue to be waived for students enrolled in the At-Risk or Special Education categories.



Tuition Information: Typically Developing Category

Tuition for students enrolled in the Typically Developing category:

In-Person Instruction: \$4250 for the school year.

Remote Learning: A tuition fee will be charged but the rate has yet to be determined.

To recap: The purpose of this presentation is to provide up-to-date information about 2020-21 so families can make an informed decision.

Options to Consider:

- Daily onsite, in-person instruction *or*
- Daily remote instruction *or*
- Unenrollment from the program

Within the next week, you will receive a questionnaire to select your schooling option for the first half of the year.





Important Dates

First Half of the School Year (August 20-December 18)

Decision for 1st half of year due by

Tuesday, July 28

Second Half of the School Year (January 4-June 3)

Decision for 2nd half of year due by

Friday, December 4



Why do we need a decision by July 28?

In order to proceed with our planning, we need to know how many students will be participating in each schooling option. This information will impact class lists, staffing, and our ability to finalize daily routines.





Why does this decision last through December 18?

Alternating between in-person and remote learning prior to December 18 would create potential concerns with:

- Staff allocation,
- fluctuating class sizes & space utilization in order to maintain social distancing and,
- maintaining effective instruction, which requires consistency, continuity, & predictability.

It is better make adjustments for students when they occur simultaneously, as in over Winter Break.

Frequently Asked Questions

We are working on a document for frequently asked questions specific to the Young Explorers program. Please send questions to:

YoungExplorers2020@northbrook28.net

