



**Nature's Pointe Cooperative Preschool
Pandemic Policy
2021-2022**

This plan will be in place as of September 2021. Because the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 are constantly changing, this is a fluid plan that will be reviewed and updated regularly. We will follow guidelines and recommendations put forth by the CDC, ISDH, Hamilton County Health Department, ICPC, and the local school districts.

Our objective is to provide a safe environment for our students, families, and staff while offering a developmentally appropriate play-based program. Our students will learn, grow, and experience through play and nature, using the outdoor classroom as much as possible.

The Nature's Pointe Constitution and Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, Health and Safety Guidelines, and ICPC Statement of Standards still apply, except where there is a difference with the Pandemic Policy. In such situations, this Pandemic Policy will override other policies and guidelines.

School Calendar

We will continue to follow the Hamilton Southeastern school district (HSE) for all holidays and school closings. We will begin school the Tuesday after Labor Day and end the week before Memorial Day. We will start school in person (as detailed in the Class Schedule section below).

If the state or local school districts have mandatory closings, and we have to close as well, we will evaluate the situation to determine if offering virtual class meetings makes sense.

Face Masks

Staff and participating adults will be required to wear a cloth face mask when they are indoors or social distancing is not possible outdoors. When possible, staff and participating adults will sanitize or wash hands before putting on their face coverings to be in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Nature's Pointe recommends children wear a face mask while indoors.

When deciding if children and people with certain disabilities should wear a mask, determine if they can:

- Use a mask correctly
- Avoid frequent touching of the mask and their face
- Limit sucking, drooling, or having excess saliva on the mask
- Remove the mask without assistance

Members must discuss details with their child's teacher.

Nature's Pointe staff, substitute teachers, and/or participating adults are not responsible for the following:

- Providing masks for students
- Enforcing students to wear masks
- Ensuring masks are worn correctly
- Helping students put on, remove, or find masks. If your child needs assistance, please discuss with your child's teachers.

COVID-19 Vaccines

All staff members are fully vaccinated. While we encourage participating adults to get vaccinated, we are not requiring it at this time.

Arrival

Parents and/or caregivers will pull up to Door 1 and help their child out of the car. Teachers will greet students and perform a health check. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering.

Health Screening/Illness Policy

Everyone entering the building may be screened, including staff, participating adults, and students. The health screening will consist of a brief verbal symptoms check. Temperatures may be checked with an infrared thermometer. If a student or adult exhibits a fever or other symptoms, they will not be able to attend school. Admittance will always be per staff discretion.

We will be following the [CDC](#) and [ISDH guidelines](#) for determining when students, staff, or participating adults can return to school after an illness. Guidelines may differ between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

If children begin to exhibit symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated from the other children and wait in a separate area with an adult until the child's parent and/or caregiver arrives.

Travel

Travel out of the state is discouraged, particularly to high-risk states. Travelers must carefully watch for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following travel, per the Indiana State Department of Health.

Planning for Substitutes

If a teacher or a member of the teacher's household contracts COVID-19, we will have a long-term substitute for each class. The teachers and board members will plan with available parents or consider hiring a substitute.

Pickup

Parents and/or caregivers will enter the building through Door 2 and walk through the building to the outdoor classroom to pick up their child.

Class Schedule

Classes will be fully in-person, and we will not offer a virtual option. We will review and evaluate this policy regularly.

Pandas

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:45-12:30

Wednesday: 10:00-1:30

Class times are adjusted to account for the Wednesday delayed start in the local school districts. The Pandas class will have 2 participating adults and an early return person each class day. Families will donate snacks so we can build a stockpile, and the scheduled snack parent can bring one fresh item on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The supply parent will bring supplies such as water, paper towels, etc. Pandas will bring lunch and eat at school on Wednesdays. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Pandas class will be held in the outdoor classroom. The teachers will have the option to go indoors for inclement weather (lightning), circle time when classes overlap, or small groups for Pandas enrichment. Forest days and possible field trips will be scheduled after the school year begins.

Koalas

Monday & Thursday: 9:15-11:45

The Koalas class will have 2 participating adults and an early return person each class day. Families will donate snacks so we can build a stockpile, and the scheduled snack parent can bring one fresh item each class day. The supply parent will bring supplies such as water, paper towels, etc. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Koalas class will be held in the outdoor classroom. The teacher will have the option to go indoors for inclement weather (lightning) or circle time when classes overlap.

Teddies

Tuesday & Friday: 9:15-11:15

The Teddies class will have two participating adults and an early return person each class day. Families will donate snacks so we can build a stockpile, and the scheduled snack parent can bring one fresh item each class day. The supply parent will bring supplies such as water, paper towels, etc. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Teddies class will be held in the outdoor classroom. The teacher will have the option to go indoors for inclement weather (lightning) or circle time when classes overlap.

Cubs

Wednesdays: 9:30-11:15

The Cubs class will have one or two participating adults and an early return person each class day. Families will donate snacks so we can build a stockpile, and the scheduled snack parent can bring one fresh item each class day. The supply parent will bring supplies such as water, paper towels, etc. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Cubs class will be held in the outdoor classroom. The teacher will have the option to go indoors for inclement weather (lightning) or circle time when classes overlap.

All Classes

We will spend as much time as possible in the outdoor classroom. If there is active lightning or thunder, we will move indoors. Teachers will refer to the Wind Chill Chart published by the National Weather Service (Addendum B) to determine if a short weather break indoors is needed.

Children will need to be dressed appropriately and have multiple sets of clothing, including socks, shoes, and diapers to be kept at school.

Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently and throughout the day.

Snack/Lunch Policy

All classes will have snacks at school. Snacks will be nut-free and meet the dietary requirements of all students in the school. Water (in a disposable cup) will be provided.

Babysitting

Class reps will schedule on site babysitting for families that need child care while participating in class.

Cleaning Procedures

Participating adults and the early return person will help the teachers clean and disinfect after class. Indoors, all hard surfaces, including bathrooms, sinks, light switches, door knobs, chairs, and tables will be disinfected after each class. Classrooms and hallways will be vacuumed. Outdoor cleaning procedures will be followed as well.

Enrichments

We hope to offer extra curricular enrichments in the second semester. We will continue to evaluate circumstances, survey families, and confirm plans in the late fall/early winter.

Meetings

Board meetings, mandatory membership meetings, parent ed & fundraising events, etc. will be in person, but some events will be virtual if necessary or more convenient for our members. Teachers will talk to their classes about holding class coffees virtually vs in person.

Parent Ed Events, CPT Class, & Service Hours

CPT (Classroom Participation Training for new members) will be a combination of both virtual and in person sessions. We will offer in-person Parent Ed sessions if the event can be held outdoors and/or with proper distancing requirements. We may also offer virtual sessions. We will offer several opportunities for members to earn service hours while staying physically distant. Members are still required to earn 4 credits of parent ed and 4 service hours.

Fundraising

We will evaluate circumstances and try to hold family social gatherings and fundraising events. We will continue fundraising through flower sales, silent auction, the mulch fundraiser, dine-to-donates, T-shirt sales, and other opportunities.

Membership Tours

Because cooperative preschool is such a unique model, we encourage interested families to tour the school and meet with teachers.

Positive COVID-19 Test (Addendum A)

If your student or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please contact the Director and your student's teacher. We will follow the guidelines set by FERPA to inform participating adults that may have had direct exposure. School-wide emails may be sent to notify families that we have a case, but individuals will not be identified.

Close Contacts

If a student or participating adult has been exposed to someone that has COVID-19 (close contact), the individual cannot attend school for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.

Positive COVID-19 Test and/or Symptomatic Individuals

Similarly, if a student or participating adults develops symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19, the individual cannot attend school for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, there must be a reduction of symptoms, and the individual must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. If possible, please provide a negative COVID-19 test result (either PCR or Antigen) before returning.

Please visit the CDC's website for more information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Wind Chill Chart (Addendum B)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10R0SQgF-7O_5EyRxFvndgtPNRDAezry1/view



Wind Chill Chart

