



September 23, 2020

Lower Columbia College Head Start & ECEAP Parents/Caregivers,

What a privilege it is to serve your child and family this school year. Our goal is to provide our full menu of services to your child and family including in-classroom preschool as soon as possible. With the COVID-19 pandemic still active, we began our school year offering reduced classroom size/days to many families and full remote services to others for the month of September. We're happy and relieved to say that our first weeks of services have gone well. We're proud of employee's efforts to uphold health and safety practices and are grateful to parents for working through adjustments with us along the way.

As promised, we have reviewed the requirements and recommendations for the last several weeks to determine how our services can look for the month of October. Based on the data and requirements we will be continuing our September models through the month of October.

What this means for you:

- If your child has already been receiving classroom center-based services, they will continue their currently scheduled classroom days/times.
- If you have chosen Remote Modified Services those will continue as scheduled.
- If you have been placed in Remote Modified Services, but want classroom center-based services, we will open up more sessions as they become available.
- If you initially chose Remote Modified Services, but want to transition into classroom center-based services, please notify your family advocate or teacher and we can place your child as sessions become available.

Next Steps:

- On 10/21/20, the program will review countywide COVID-19 data from the previous two weeks, state requirements, school district plans, and quality of health and safety practices being used at our centers.
- Plans for November services will be shared with parents by 10/23/20.

Remote Modified Services – Continue through October 30, 2020

Child Development Support	Family Support
Teacher will provide twice weekly instruction remotely to each child with their parent/caregiver	Family Advocate will maintain a minimum of once weekly contact with parent/caregiver

Slow Start Center-Based Services - Continue through October 30, 2020

Group 1	Group 2
Your child will attend in classroom two days each week on Mondays and Tuesdays	Your child will attend in classroom two days each week on Thursdays and Fridays
Maximum classroom capacity of 9 children and 2 teachers.	Maximum classroom capacity of 9 children and 2 teachers.

REMINDERS:

Some requirements we must follow for center-based services include:

- Daily temperature checks and health screenings will occur before any child or adult enters a center.
- Staff are completing temperature checks and health screenings daily prior to attending work.
- Face Coverings for adults and children (some accommodations are available).

Our enrollment remains at 60% at this time. When classrooms are not fully enrolled, only one Slow Start Center-Based group will be able to open. Teachers will use the alternate group time to continue enrollment connections and remotely serve Group 2 children/families. While we understand this is not ideal, if assigned to Group 2, it is necessary to balance the Teacher's workload. Once the second group is near full enrollment then Group 2 will begin classroom services.

On Wednesdays, classrooms are closed for:

- Typical staff planning, meetings, trainings; and
- While daily cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of classroom materials will be done, staff will use this day to deep clean classrooms, playgrounds, laundry, etc.

School bus transportation is very limited to ensure safe group size for our fleet of small buses.

The more every one of us adopts face coverings, physical distancing, and handwashing/hygiene in all the settings we are in, the sooner we can reach our goal of returning our group size of 17 children each classroom for regularly scheduled days.

Wishing you well,
Mindy Leasure, Director