

## Community Commitment during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Children's House is committed to providing a safe environment for our students and our staff as we face the continuing threat of a pandemic. We have plans in place to accomplish this, and we will do all we can to make this time as positive and stress-free as possible, for children, staff, and families. At the same time, we will be guided by the operational mandates from the Virginia Department of Education (our licensing agent), the Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and recommendations from the Governor of Virginia to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. But we will need the help of our awesome community of families to make it work. We can't do it without your support.

### Children's House Commitment – our pledge to you:

- Monitor the health of children and adults with daily health screenings.
- Check the temperature of anyone that shows signs of illness and isolate anyone with a temperature above 99.5 degrees until they can be removed from the environment.
- Maintain hygiene routines, including frequent hand washing.
- Maintain sanitation routines, including frequent cleaning of materials in the classroom and nightly cleaning of the facility.
- Provide parents the option to have their child wear masks just inside, outside, or both, or not at all.
- Ask children who are voluntarily not wearing a mask to wear a mask if they are showing symptoms of illness at school.
- Minimize non-essential visitors.

We are asking families to voluntarily enter into a commitment with the school to work as a team and do all we can to keep everyone healthy. We are so lucky to have a caring and committed community of families, and by working together, we can decrease the chance of transmission of the coronavirus. Please initial all sections of this agreement; it is not binding until signed by both parents and the director.

### Our Families' Commitment – your pledge to the school:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I have freely chosen to enroll my child in Children's House Montessori School of Reston for the 2022-2023 school year. I understand that Children's House has taken reasonable precautions to protect the children, families, and staff from exposure to COVID-19. I am permitting my child to participate in all school activities, knowingly and voluntarily assuming all risks related to COVID-19 which may result from my child's voluntary attendance at school. I accept full responsibility for all medical expenses for exposure my family might receive from attendance at school.

\_\_\_\_\_ By signing the original contract and this addendum Agreement, I understand and agree that tuition will be paid on time as agreed upon in the original contract. The changing circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic may cause the School to temporarily transition to on-line

instruction in the case of a temporary closure. This may be due to a COVID-19 outbreak in our school community or in the community at large. We will obey all laws, rules, and regulations as mandated by the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to continue to pay full tuition, as agreed upon in the original contract, even if I decide to temporarily take my child out of school for any reason. Permanent withdrawal from school is governed by in the original contract signed for the school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to inform the school if someone in our family, extended family, my workplace, or anyone we have had direct contact with is diagnosed with COVID-19. We will take appropriate steps to quarantine as recommended by the Virginia Department of Health. Notification must be done in writing (email) or by phone with a call to the School as soon as possible after the direct contact has taken place. Notifying the School, as quickly as possible, after a positive diagnosis, allows the School to communicate to the School Community and plan mitigation strategies if needed to help prevent further transmission. Before/after school and weekend/holiday Covid-19 diagnosis should be shared via the School email as soon as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to inform the school if someone in our family travels overseas. If an exposure occurs while away, I agree to inform the school of the details. This must be done in writing and by phone with a call to the School as soon as possible after the direct contact has taken place. I agree to follow the Department of Health guidelines regarding quarantine.

\_\_\_\_\_ If my child shows symptoms of illness with a temperature elevated beyond 98.6, then I will keep my child home to determine if the elevated temperature returns to normal. If, at any time during the day your child's temperature is elevated at or beyond the temperature of 99.5 degrees at school, you will be called to pick up your child.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to keep my child at home with any symptoms of COVID-19, to include but not limited to: fever, chills, rash, cough, runny nose, sneezing, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, or lethargy. A doctor's statement of wellbeing or a diagnosis other than COVID-19 will be needed to return to school. If a COVID diagnosis is received, either by a doctor or a home test, appropriate steps to isolate or quarantine will be required.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to follow any mandates from the Virginia Department of Health and/or the Department of Education provided to me by Children's House, related to the health of our school community, including isolation orders.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that this document does not include contingencies for all possible situations that may arise due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In all cases where the original contract and this Addendum fail to adequately address a situation or circumstances that arise that affects or may affect the health, safety and well-being of the children, teachers, and staff of the School, that the School makes the final decision on all issues concerning the safety of the students, the teachers, and the staff.

\_\_\_\_ By signing this document, I hereby waive any and all rights to hold **Children's House Montessori School of Reston, or the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, liable if my child or anyone in my family contracts COVID19. I agree to Indemnify Children's House Montessori School of Reston, Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, and any and all employees of these entities should these entities or their employees be found liable for damages as a result of my child or anyone in my family contracting COVID-19.**

\_\_\_\_ I understand that failure and/or refusal to comply with the policies established in this document places in jeopardy my child's privilege of attending the School. The School reserves the right to refuse admittance, to suspend, or to expel any child/family that does not cooperate with these policies.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Amended on July 20, 2022