Dear Families,

Thank you for all your support and collaboration thus far in our shared efforts to keep our childcare program community safe in the uncertainty of the covid-19 virus pandemic.

I am struggling to balance appreciation for the fact that childcare is a critical service for families and children with our common civic responsibility to keep you, your children, our staff and our community safe and healthy at this time. Social distancing to limit the spread of the virus is such an important holding action and so difficult to practice in caring for very young children.

You know that we have stepped up our usual vigilance around frequent disinfection in our program and we’ve tightened exclusion policies around any children with symptoms of infectious illness.

I am ready to take more serious measures and I need your help.

If you are working from home or have some flexibility to keep your children at home, or if you have other alternatives for childcare than group care here, I am asking that you voluntarily keep your children at home until the state of emergency is lifted. Please let us know if this is an option for you and I can staff accordingly and let some of our more vulnerable staff and staff with children stay at home also. If you need to be at work and you need our services, we will be here for you as long as we can manage that or until we are mandated to close.

Staff will be following up on this letter so that we have a record of every family’s situation and need for childcare.

I will continue to charge full tuition for all families during this time of reduced operation and also in the event we have to close. That is the only way that I can continue to pay our staff - who are dependent on their salaries to take care of themselves and their families – and be here for you and your children when this crisis is over. If that creates hardship for you, please contact me personally and we will work something out.

We ask that families who do continue attending our program maintain our vigilance in regard to hand washing and exclusion for potential illness. Please continue washing your hands and your children’s hands with hot water and soap for 30 seconds upon arrival at our program at drop off and pick up. If your child has any symptoms of illness, please keep them home and stay in contact with staff about their ability to return. We are asking that families limit their time in the center as much as possible during pick up and drop off, to minimize exposure and that you do your best to have one consistent person dropping off and picking up each day.

As ever, it’s an honor to be trusted with caring for your children. Thank you for working with us to do your best to keep our childcare program and our greater community safe and healthy during this complicated time. I know that we can move through this together. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and questions and I will continue to keep you well informed.