

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR Excellence *in* Early Childhood

We Hear You and We are Here to Help!

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Delaware early childhood professionals have been accomplishing amazing things. Every day, you serve our youngest and most vulnerable citizens while working to protect their health and safety and the health and safety of those supporting them. Properly wearing a cloth face covering is not easy, but this requirement is in place to protect you and the children you serve. The Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) cannot commend you too highly; you are amazing!

In this article, we thought we would highlight some of the questions that we hear repeatedly regarding what is permitted during these unprecedented times.

Q: May I use sprinklers and water slides for the children?

A: Yes, if there is no water pooling at the end of the slide and social distancing is maintained as much as possible. Water slides that use fresh, running water are the best option. Slip-and-slides may be used as long as proper sanitizing and cleaning of surfaces is practiced after each use along with physical distancing and there is no communal pooling of water, often found at the end of the slide.

Q: May I conduct tours?

A: Yes, after hours. Your program must be thoroughly cleaned before children return.

Q: We move children to a new age group at the end of the summer. How can this be done?

A: Under present guidance, class groups should remain as stable as possible, so gradual transitions are not permitted. Unless guidance changes before your moving-up date, children need to move all at once. Zoom meetings with the new teacher and other creative contacts can help ease the transition.

Q: Can a face-covering be worn under my nose?

A: No, it must cover both mouth and nose at all times. However, guidance from public health stated that relief from the face-covering could occur during nap time and when they are on the playground as long as the professional is socially distant from the children and others. The face-covering should be put back on when interacting with staff and children again.

A complete list of updated questions and answers is on the Blueprint for Reopening landing page [here](#). It includes answers to your most recent concerns related to health issues about COVID-19. Please note we receive most of our guidance regarding Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH) issues from public health. They are the real experts in determining how to combat this health crisis. OCCL appreciates the partnership we have with DPH!

Be sure to reach out to your licensing specialist with additional questions. If we don't know the answer, we always elevate to the right resource.