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Update Regarding our COVID-19 Closure as of May 25, 2020

Over the past week, we have been reviewing the guidelines that have been published by the Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group, The CT Office of Early Education, The American Camping Association and the Executive Orders from Governor Lamont. Additionally we have attended meetings held by the American Camping Association and the Connecticut Camping Association. We have reached out to our local health agency, a state representative and a pediatrician for guidance. We also reached out to you all through our email distribution list and asked how you feel about attending activities in our gym. (I am honored that 150 of you took the time to complete the survey and provide your thoughts! Thank you for helping us.) With all of this data and information, we have been completely consumed with understanding the regulations and how to incorporate these changes into our daily routine, the risks, the benefits and the needs of our community. It was a very difficult task, not only due to the large amount of information that had to be processed and analyzed, but it was emotionally difficult as well. Please know that I always want to provide the services that our Whippersnapper's Families want and to not be able to do that, is truly heartbreaking in so many ways. I am deeply sorry to announce that we will not be able to run our summer camp program this year.

There is nothing that I would like to do more than to be able to open camp and provide a change of scenery and social interaction for your children. I know how important this is. However, the risks outweigh the benefits right now. It's not about the fact that we can only take 10 children per day. We were absolutely willing to work with the financial implications of that regulation. It's about the risks and how those risks impact us and what makes Whippersnapper's Day Camp special. What makes us unique and desirable for our families is exactly what is causing our risk factor to increase.

- We provide flexibility in our scheduling: the ability to pick random days to attend, half days, versus full days, before care and aftercare all lead to different children coming and going multiple times a day and multiple times per week. Camps now are required to keep children in groups of 10 max and they have to stay in those groups the entire week. So if we were to open camp, we would not be able to provide half days or random days anymore. Camp would be a full week enrollment for full days.
- We have an indoor play space: the flexibility that we have to be able to go inside to the air conditioned gym is one of our biggest benefits. However, right now, indoor spaces are a higher risk.
- We excel with helping the youngest campers adjust to being away from parents. We pride ourselves for being a place for 3 year olds to learn to be more independent. One of the benefits of our camp is that we are small and we get to know every camper very well which helps them transition during drop off times. However, now, those youngest campers are the ones most at risk for not being able to follow new protocols and distancing requirements.

There are many more restrictions and regulations that we have to follow this year which impact our ability to provide our summer camp program. All of these factors and the possible difficulty in obtaining the necessary PPE and

cleaning supplies leads me to the sad decision that we cannot safely provide a summer camp experience for your children this year. I am so very sorry. For those of you that had already contacted us about using credits/payments for camp this summer, I will be in touch with you directly over the next week.

For Classes, Open Play and Birthday Parties, we will be waiting to see what guidelines are published relating to the Phase 2 opening in the next few weeks. We are hopeful that we might be able to run a few classes and maybe open play later in the summer. At this time, we are planning for any summer classes that are offered will be open only to those that were registered in our spring session which was cut short. We will provide an update on that once we get the necessary information.

The list below was published when we closed in Mid-March. It has been updated now based on our current status.

- **Parent Participation Classes – Spring Session Interruption:** All children that enrolled and paid for the Spring 1 session will be able to enroll in a future session with a credit for the 7 weeks we were not able to run classes. We are hoping we will be able to hold classes later this summer. Any summer classes that may be offered will only be available to Spring 1 Session families. We are hoping our classes will resume normally in the Fall.
- **Drop Off Classes are cancelled for the spring/summer -** All children that enrolled and paid for the March 2020 session will receive a credit for the 2 weeks of unused classes. Unfortunately, there will not be a typical year end promotion ceremony. We are hoping our classes will resume normally in the fall.
- **All birthday parties will be rescheduled or a credit for service will be issued.** All birthday parties since March 21 have been postponed at this time. Once we are allowed to open and hold events with 50 or more people in attendance we will be able to re-schedule parties. If you prefer to cancel the party, we will provide a credit for your deposit to use for a different service or a different birthday party in the future. We are not able to provide refunds for party deposits and credits are not transferrable.
- **Open Play is currently not available.** Once we are able to have open play again, it will be by pre-registration, pre-payment only for a 90 minute time slot, will be limited to 10 children per time slot and only one adult per child may attend. These new procedures may change based on any regulations that may be published in the future. All Frequent Visitor Pass expiration dates will be reviewed and adjusted individually.
- **Easter Party –** All children registered for the Easter party that was cancelled will be automatically enrolled in our grand re-opening party which will be scheduled at a later date. If you would prefer to not attend the new party, a credit for a future service can be provided.
- **April Break Camp & Summer Camp –** See above. If you had made a payment for camp or used a previous credit to secure camp dates, you will be contacted directly.

If you have any questions, email is the best method of communication during the closure at info@whippersnappersplaygym.com

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we get through this unfortunate interruption.

Wishing you all good health and love from all of us here at Whippersnapper's.

Jen