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# North Shore Youth Council's School Age Child Care

## *Parent Handbook & COVID-19 Safety Plan*

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**Please Note: The guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and the Suffolk County Department of Health contained in this safety plan is subject to change. This plan may be updated based on that guidance and at the discretion of North Shore Youth Council.**

Updated 3/28/22

Welcome to North Shore Youth Council's School Age Child Care Program. We are looking forward to the new school year and watching your children grow and learn. Our goal is to help parents and guardians balance the needs of their family with the associated risks of COVID-19 while offering a program that provides peace of mind and safe, supervised child care, enrichment, and recreation before and after school. Our programs are licensed by New York State and adhere to all requirements that accompany licensure.

This handbook and safety plan has been prepared in order to provide parents and caregivers with detailed information, and should answer some of the most frequently asked questions regarding our program. Please review it carefully, and don't hesitate to call if you have any further questions or comments after reading it.

### **Our Mission**

North Shore Youth Council is dedicated to helping youth and families cope in today's changing world. Our programs are designed to encourage young people to develop the life skills necessary to become responsible, successful adults.

### **What Can You Expect From Us?**

- Your child will be cared for in a safe, supportive environment.
- We will provide your child with ample enrichment, prevention, and recreation opportunities.
- Our program helps build essential life skills in a positive, fun atmosphere that encourages their creativity and healthy development.
- You may address any concerns regarding your child or the program with the Program Director, the Site Supervisor, or the main office at any time.
- You will be notified of any concerns we may have regarding your child.

### **What Can We Expect From You?**

- You will pay appropriate program fees, on time and in full.
- You will keep the contact and health information regarding your child that we have on file up to date.
- You will pick up your child from the afternoon program on time.
- You will not send your child to the program if they are exhibiting obvious signs of illness.
- You will be receptive to any information or concerns we may have regarding your child, and be willing to work with us whenever necessary in order to ensure your child will be able to participate in our program.

### **COVID-19 Safety in Our Programs**

Working together with the local school districts and local health department, our child care programs play an important role in slowing the spread of diseases and protecting vulnerable students and staff, to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning and recreational environments. We will continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans that build on everyday practices to help protect the school community as a whole, including those who are high risk or have special health needs.

**Overview of COVID-19 Safety Precautions - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

- All staff are thoroughly trained and prepared to work under new guidelines and procedures.
- Physical areas, events, and activities are modified to support proper physical distancing.
- Smaller group sizes stay together during programs.
- Adequate supplies and procedures are in place for maintaining and executing good hygiene, disinfecting, and cleaning.
- Sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) is available for all staff and emergency situations.
- Health surveys prior to the start of the program.
- Signed waivers of understanding and liability from all staff and families.
- Daily health screenings and temperature checks.
- Individuals stay home when feeling sick.
- Open communication between all staff, families, and school administrations.
- Commitment to following all procedures, policies, and mitigation efforts for a healthy community.

**Before School Care Program**

Our *Before School Child Care Programs* accommodate families who need a safe place for their children before school starts each morning. We provide a stimulating environment with daily opportunities for enrichment before the day begins. Children can participate in the variety of age-appropriate activities we offer, including arts and crafts, board games, reading time, socializing, and special events.

**After School Care Program**

Our *After School Child Care Programs* offer peace of mind to parents and guardians who are looking for safe child care beyond the school bell. Children will have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of age-appropriate enrichment activities to support their growth and development. After school programs include socialization, homework help, board games, recreational play, reading time, arts and crafts, creative workshops, and special events.

A snack break will be made available each afternoon. We request that you send in a snack and drink with your child. We request that you do not send glass bottles or snacks with peanuts, tree nuts, etc.

**Supervision**

Each program will have a Site Supervisor and Child Care Workers. The staff to student ratio will be 1:10 at all times, in order to comply with NYS licensing regulations. Parents will meet supervisors when they drop their children off in the morning or pick them up in the afternoon.

The following guidelines regarding staff to student ratio requirements will be adhered to at all times:

**Minimum Staff/Child Ratios Based on Group Size**

| AGE             | MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF STAFF PER CHILDREN | MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| Through 9 years | 1:10                                      | 20                 |

Programs may contain students who are 8 years old mixing with students who are 9 and 10 years old; in this instance, the ratio of 1:10 will be used.

When more than 20 children are in attendance, students will be separated into groups so that no one group contains more than 20 students. Groups will be supervised by staff in separate activities. Groups will not contain more than 20 students when students are 6-9 years of age.

All staff in any SACC programs will be required to submit to North Shore Youth Council the following documents:

- National Criminal Record Check
- New York State Criminal History Record Check
- New York State Sex Offender Registry Search
- National Sex Offender Registry Search
- Statewide Central Register Database Check
- Staff Exclusion List Check
- State Sex Offender Registry, Child Abuse or Maltreatment, and Criminal History Repository Search
- New York State Foundations of Health and Safety certificate of completion
- Proof of fingerprint submission to Child Care Council
- Criminal history disclosure form
- Medical form indicating a negative tuberculin test result
- Signed medical statement from a health care professional
- Resume with proof of qualifications
- Employment and personal reference check

All staff will also be required to complete training sessions on the following topics:

- Principles of child development
- Nutrition and health needs of children
- Child day care program development
- Safety and security procedures
- Business record maintenance and management
- Child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention
- Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care
- Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment

Each staff person and volunteer must complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of approved training every two years. All childcare programs will have a staff person who holds a valid certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid on the premises of the program during program operating hours.

No person under the age of 18 will be left alone to supervise a group of children at any time.

## **Days/Hours**

The program will operate on all school days and will follow the school calendar. Students may arrive as early as 6:45 AM for the morning programs. The after school programs will be open from dismissal time at the respective school until 6:00 PM. You must pick up your child no later than 6:00PM or there will be a late pick up fee. Late pick up fees must be paid on site and apply to all program participants, including those on scholarship and DSS. You must also call the site in case of any emergencies. **It is the parents' responsibility to check with the program staff for information on hours of operation for early dismissals, delayed openings, parent/teacher conferences, etc.**

NSYC offers extended care for early dismissal days due to parent/teacher conferences. This separate program, which is not offered at all schools, has limited registration and is offered at an additional cost. Information regarding these extended care days will be made available on site.

## **Registration Procedure and Fee**

Registration is on-going year-round. Online registration can be found on our website at [www.nsync.com](http://www.nsync.com). A \$50.00 non-refundable annual registration fee is required for each child. If you register for a five day per week schedule of before care, after care, or both before/after care, you will receive a \$50 registration fee discount per child off your first monthly bill.

Our monthly rates are based on a full school year and no adjustments are made for school closings either planned or unplanned, nor are adjustments made for absent days. Once a child is enrolled in the program you must provide 1 week written notice to withdraw. If you wish to change from one scheduling option to another you must provide written notice to the site director. You must also email the office for billing adjustment purposes.

Schedule changes will go into effect immediately when adding days to your schedule. If you are decreasing days on your schedule, changes will not go into effect until the following billing cycle. **It is imperative to let your child's teacher know of any changes to their schedule so that they are not sent home on the bus if they are expected at the program that day.**

## **Per Diem Rates**

Per diem rates will be applied for single use and two day per week schedule use. Per diem days will be **pre-purchased** in increments of 10 time slots (for those registered per diem only) which you can use for before or after care at a fee of \$25 each (total of \$250). You must call the office to set up your card and can pay by check, cash, or credit card. If you are registered for a regular schedule you may use the per diem option as a backup or in the event of an emergency and will be charged \$25 per session you use. Purchased per diem days can be used at any time of the school year for per diem **only** (cannot be used for extended care days, school break fun days, etc.). Punch cards will be kept at the site and punched when your child attends. Please do not let your card run out before you purchase additional days. If you purchase a card and decide to switch your child to a regular schedule, the balance will be applied to the regular schedule rate. You will still have to pick up your child by 6:00 PM or late pick-up fees will apply.

## **Discounts**

\*Sibling - A 10% sibling discount will be given for each additional child in the same family. The first child will be billed full price; second and additional siblings will receive a 10% discount off their individual rate. This discount applies to all schedules.

\*Military/Frontline & Essential – Thank you heroes! Inquire with us about how to receive 10% off your entire bill.

Mt. Sinai Middle School before care is free when you register for after care.

Receive a \$50 registration fee discount off your first bill when you register for a 5 day schedule of before care, after care, or both.

\*Discounts cannot be combined.

### **Billing, Payments, and Late Fees**

Billing for the school year will be via e-mail. Every registration application must contain an accurate email address for this purpose. Billing is done the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. If you do not receive an email invoice, please contact the office to ensure that we have the correct email address on file; you are still responsible for payments.

Payments are due by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month and can be made by personal check, money order, cash, Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, or Discover. If paying by cash, the exact amount is required. Any returned checks will be charged a \$20 bank fee, and all future payments must be made by cash, money order, or card. Please make checks payable to North Shore Youth Council, P.O. Box 1286, Rocky Point, NY 11778, or in person at our office in the portables on the grounds of the Joseph. A. Edgar School in Rocky Point. Credit card payments can be made by paying through the link attached to your statement or through your account. If your card declines, you will be charged a \$20 fee.

**Every parent/guardian must have a credit card or bank account on file and fill out the Tuition Express Automated Payment Processing Form.** This form can be found on our website. Any payments that are not received by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month will be automatically charged to the card/account on file. Any payment received after the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month will be subject to a \$20.00 late fee. If payment is not received in our office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, your child will be in danger of suspension from the program until payment in full is made along with any late payment fees that are due. If you request to place your account on a “recurring credit card basis,” we will charge your card automatically on or around the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### **Late Pick Up**

If your child is not picked up on time, there will be a \$15 late fee for every 15 minutes you are late rounded up to the nearest 15 minute interval. The late pick up fee applies to **each child** at their respective site. Please make every effort to be on time; if you are going to be late, you must call the site to let them know.

### **Custody/Medical/Allergy/Behavioral**

If there is a custody agreement or order of protection in place, all documents MUST be on file BEFORE your child starts the program.

All medical and/or allergy paperwork, which is available on our website as a pdf download (medical consent forms) MUST be on file BEFORE your child starts the program. Please indicate all such information on the attached form. All personal and health information is protected and kept confidential.

North Shore Youth Council is permitted by the Office of Children and Family Services to administer emergency medications such as epinephrine auto-injectors, antihistamine and inhalers in our child care programs.

If your child has a medical condition which requires the administration of medication during the program, you **MUST** complete the medical consent paperwork. These forms, which can be found on our website, must be filled out by the parent/guardian, the child's doctor, and the program director. If your child requires multiple medications on site, a medication consent form must be filled out for **EACH** medication.

If a child has an allergy or asthma and does not require medication, parents/guardians **MUST** fill out a medication exempt form prior to the start of the program to be kept on site.

If your child requires an Epi-Pen or allergy medications, we must have them at the site before your child starts the program. Prescriptions must be kept in their original containers and have a prescription medication label. Medications and medical consent paperwork must be kept in a labeled Ziploc bag provided by the parent/guardian.

**Please make sure to check the expiration dates of medications to ensure they are usable. If a prescription/medication expires during the school year, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to supply a new medication immediately. Children will not be allowed to return to the program until the new medication has been received, unless a medication exempt form is filled out and signed.**

In the event of a critical medical emergency, a child will be administered their medication first, 911 will be called, and parents/guardians will be called. The staff who will be responsible for administering medications will be successfully trained.

If you indicated on your child's registration form that they are receiving behavioral-related services, you **MUST** fill out an individual health care plan for your child prior to the start of the program so that the Site Supervisor is aware, can better meet your and your child's needs, and ensure safe, positive experiences during the school year.

### **Parent/Guardian Notification & Emergency Contacts**

Parents/guardians will always be called first in the event of any emergency. If your child has visible signs of illness while in the program (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, disorientation, dizziness, seizure) or is physically injured while in the program, Site Supervisors will attempt to contact you immediately by phone. If you cannot be reached, we will begin calling the names listed on your Emergency Contact Information provided when you registered your child. In the event emergency medical care is needed, the Site Supervisor will call an ambulance.

It is imperative that if you left us a cell phone number, your phone is turned on while your child is in our care. If you cannot receive cell phone calls because of your workplace, you must leave us a work number where you can be reached.

Please consider whether or not any of your emergency contact or parent contact information has changed since you registered your child (sometimes cell phone numbers change, emergency contact people are no longer available, etc.). Please request and fill out a new Emergency Contact Information sheet and return it to your Site Supervisor if any information has changed since registering your child.



If you would like to review the information we currently have on file for your child, please ask a Site Supervisor to show you your paperwork when you pick your child up or drop them off.

**Health Screenings and COVID-19 Protocol - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

As part of our registration process and in accordance with New York State regulations, every individual (child care employee, volunteer, parent, child, and essential visitors) must complete a one-time health attestation and a daily COVID-19 health screening. The screening must ask about COVID-19 symptoms in the past 10 days, a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days, and/or close or proximate contact with any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the past 10 days. Responses must be reviewed and documented daily.

Temperature checks and health screenings will be conducted each morning and afternoon on all staff and children. A temperature check with a no-touch thermometer must register below 100.0°F or as directed by the health department. High temperatures will be given a second reading by the site supervisor. All health screenings will be documented and logged.

Any staff or child who is feeling ill or presenting with fever or flu- or cold-like symptoms must stay home. If they are already in program and fall ill, they will be taken to a secure area and assessed by the Site Supervisor for a wellness check. After assessment, it will be arranged for children to be picked up and for staff to go home. A plan for staff absenteeism will be developed to maintain proper staff-to-child ratios. It is recommended that staff members who are high risk or have serious underlying health conditions consult with their medical provider to assess their risk.

**Isolation Procedures - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

Isolation is for individuals who have been infected with COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. Isolation is also for people who are suspected of having COVID-19 because of the symptoms they exhibit.

If the person is a child of any age or adult who has symptoms of COVID-19 and is waiting for a test, regardless of vaccination status:

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must stay out of the child care program for 5 days OR until they receive a negative COVID-19 test (whichever is first).
- If test is negative and symptoms are improving, they can come back to the child care program.
- If test is positive, follow isolation rules for a COVID positive.

If the person is a child of any age or adult who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status:

- Anyone with a positive COVID test must stay out of the child care program for at least 5 days. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and who is not experiencing symptoms must isolate for 5 days. After 5 days, they may return to program and must consistently wear a well-fitting mask at program for days 6-10 (masks required for days 6-10). Day 1 of isolation for someone not experiencing symptoms is the first full day following a positive test. Day zero, is the day you test positive.
- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who is experiencing symptoms must isolate for at least 5 days. Day 1 of isolation for someone who is experiencing symptoms is the first full day following the day symptoms first began and day zero is the first day symptoms began. They may return to the child program after 5 full days AND must be fever-free for 24 hours without



medication AND must have improving symptoms before returning to program. They must wear a well-fitting mask for days 6-10. Anyone who cannot reliably wear a well-fitted mask for any reason, who has tested positive for COVID-19, must stay out of program for a full 10 days. Anyone hospitalized with COVID-19 or immunocompromised must isolate for at least 10 days and consult a doctor before returning to the child care program.

In the event that a parent/guardian of a child must be isolated because they have tested positive for, or exhibited symptoms of, COVID-19, they will be advised that they cannot enter or approach the site for any reason.

- If the parent/guardian – who is a member of the same household as the child – is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or has been tested and is positive for the virus, we will utilize an emergency contact authorized by the parent to come pick up the child. As a “close contact,” the child must not return to the program for the duration of the quarantine.
- If the parent/guardian – who is a member of the same household as the child – is being quarantined as a precautionary measure, without symptoms or a positive test, staff will walk out or deliver the child to the parent/guardian at the boundary of, or outside, the premises. As a “contact of a contact” the child may return to the program during the duration of the quarantine.
- If a child or their household member becomes symptomatic for COVID-19 and/or tests positive, the child must quarantine and may not return or attend the program until after quarantine is complete.

**Quarantine Procedures - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

Quarantine is for someone who has had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 but who does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not tested positive COVID-19. A close contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

If the person has received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters (if eligible) OR had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (tested positive using a viral test) OR an unvaccinated child who is attending school and who also attends a child care program part of the day:

- No quarantine is required before they may return to program.
- They do not need to stay out of the program unless they develop symptoms.
- If a person under quarantine develops symptoms, they must follow the above isolation guidance before returning to program.
- They should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days.
- If they haven't had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days, testing is encouraged on day 5 when possible.

If the person has not received all recommended doses of the vaccine, including boosters (if eligible) OR is completely unvaccinated:

- Adults and children may return to the child care program after 5 days if they are able to wear a well-fitting face mask AND if they are not experiencing symptoms. Masks must be worn at program for days 6-10.
- Anyone who cannot reliably wear a well-fitting mask for any reason, must remain out of the child care program for a full 10 days. They may return to program after 10 days provided they are not experiencing symptoms.
- If a person under quarantine develops symptoms, they must follow the above isolation guidance before returning to program.

- If a person under quarantine has not had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days, testing is encouraged on day 5 when possible.

In the event that any individual (staff, child, or child family member) receives a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, the case will be reported to the proper health authorities and all staff and families will be notified immediately, with the confidentiality of the individual maintained. All areas of contact will be cleared out and cleaned and sanitized per the CDC guidelines.

NSYC will maintain a log of every person including employees, parents/guardians, children and any essential visitors who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the work site or area, excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means.

NSYC will designate a Site Safety Monitor in childcare programs whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

NSYC has COVID-19 at-home test kits available for staff and families. Please inquire with your Site Supervisor or call the office if you need one.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, unexplained loss of smell or taste, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, headache, and fatigue.

### **Attendance**

If your child will be registered for after care, you MUST write a letter to your child's school/teacher at the beginning of the year indicating what days they are attending our program in the afternoons.

If your child will not be attending the program due to scheduled vacations or other planned absences, please notify the Site Supervisor. If your child is ill and will not be attending school due to illness, please either ask to have that information passed on to us when you call the school to report your child's absence, or call the Site Supervisor directly and leave a message.

Our program will not refund payments made due to frequent absences. If your child is scheduled to attend five days a week, and is absent from school for several days during a given month due to illness or vacation, you will still be responsible for paying the month's tuition in full.

If you wish to revise the schedule of when your child will attend the program (for example, you signed up for five days per week but now realize you only need three), you may contact the Site Supervisor or Program Director and make them aware of these changes, and payments will be adjusted for the following month.

### **Physical Distancing - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

6 ft. physical distancing will be maintained at all times for all staff and children.

Precautions will be taken in regards to the flow of staff and children to help minimize close contact.

Any time that employees are less than 6 ft. from each other or interacting with children, they must wear a face covering.

We will implement practices to maintain adequate social distancing in small areas, such as restrooms, and signage and systems (e.g. flagging when occupied) to restrict occupancy when social distancing cannot be maintained in such areas.

In-person staff gatherings (e.g. breaks, meetings) will be limited to the greatest extent possible.

We will limit non-essential visitors on site and establish designated areas for pick-ups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.

**Face Coverings - Please be advised that this guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DOH, OCFS, and NYSED**

Effective March 2, 2022, masks are no longer required to be worn in child care programs.

With the absence of a universal mask requirement, there are still circumstances when masking should be used in child care programs. Children, staff, volunteers, etc., in a child care program should still wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the following circumstances:

- When they had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (this means when they were within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period) they must wear a mask for 10 days;
- If they are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider(s);
- If they feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons;
- If they are required to mask by the child care program or by their municipality (city/county);
- If required to mask by any relevant federal licensure or regulator (for example, for Head Start);
- If they completed a minimum 5-day isolation period because of a COVID-19 infection and have returned to program, masks must be worn on days 6-10.

To the extent that any person is expected or required to mask, masks may be removed when eating, drinking, singing, going outside, or playing a wind instrument. When masks are removed for these purposes, social distancing will be maximized as much as possible (ideally six feet or more).

**Hygiene/Cleaning/Disinfecting**

We will be adhering to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfecting requirements set forth by the CDC, New York State, and the Suffolk County Department of Health.

All staff and children will be required to practice hygiene upon arrival to the program, between all program activities, before and after eating, and after restroom use.

All staff will be trained on proper handwashing procedures and ensure children follow protocol. Appropriate signage will be displayed in bathrooms and the cafeteria.

Designated staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting bathrooms. Daily logs detailing the date, time, and scope of cleaning/disinfecting will be maintained by staff.

Staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting materials, equipment, and spaces between groups.

EPA-approved hand sanitizer will be made available throughout common areas.

Disinfectants will be used by adult staff on a daily basis to ensure sanitary standards are met and maintained in accordance with health regulations.

Common areas, frequently touched surfaces, and shared materials will be cleaned and disinfected frequently/after each use. Playgrounds will be cleaned after each group.

### **Drop-off/Pick-up Procedures**

Locations for drop-off and pick-up at each school are as follows:

- Mt. Sinai Elementary – front entrance vestibule
- Frank J. Carasiti – cafeteria door behind school
- Joseph A. Edgar – cafeteria door under awning
- Miller Avenue – front entrance vestibule
- Wading River – front entrance vestibule

To limit any possible exposure, parents/guardians will not be allowed entry into child care programs, unless there is an emergency, they need to speak with the Site Supervisor, or a special circumstance, in which they will be subject to a health screening. Parent/guardian health screenings will be logged when signing in with the visitor's log. This is a precaution in case we need to conduct contact tracing.

Morning program students must be escorted to the program by parents. Children cannot be dropped off without being signed in. Afternoon program students must be picked up at the door by a parent/guardian/other designated pick-up contact. The pick-up person must sign the child out of the program.

Please be prepared to show ID upon picking your child up. Children will only be released to parents or those individuals designated by parents as approved pick-up people. This information will be on file at each site; if you send someone else to pick your child up from the program, and that person is not on file as an approved pick-up person, your child will not be released until you are reached and the pick-up is confirmed by you. Please send in a note whenever children are being picked up by anyone other than pre-designated individuals, and please make your child is aware of these changes whenever possible. The designated pick-up must always bring their license for verification. We will not release children to adults whom they appear to not know or whom they appear uncomfortable with or frightened of.

If anyone picking a child up appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of pick up, our program will not release the child to that person (even if it is a parent).

### **Program Schedule/Activities**

We will have the use of outdoor play equipment/areas, so please dress your child accordingly, and plan for them to spend some time outdoors each day that the weather permits. Outdoor recreation will be modified to limit contact as best as possible and to include more lower-risk skill-building and conditioning activities.

In the morning program, children will have the opportunity to play board games, card games, read, draw, color, catch up on homework, or play with other toys provided by the program. Some outdoor play time may be permitted, depending on the weather and time allowances. Children will report to their classrooms upon the start of the school day.

In the afternoon program, children will report to the appropriate designated location in their respective buildings upon dismissal at the end of the school day. They will be signed in by staff and attendance will be taken along with a temperature check. Children will have an opportunity for indoor play, including board games, card games, drawing, coloring, and other art projects, as well as outdoor play with appropriate play equipment every day. Some gym time may be scheduled as well (school regulations permitting). Parents or caregivers who are picking children up when children are playing outside will be directed to the playground area for signing children out.

Events and activities will be modified as needed to maintain health and safety, ie; staff will help children maintain physical distancing within reason, activities will be conducted outside in appropriate weather whenever possible, only one group allowed per activity, staff and children will be required to wash/sanitize their hands, sharing of multi-use materials and equipment will be limited and disinfected after each use, etc.

Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned frequently.

Any planned special events will take place on a group level to account for a smaller number of participants. While we will limit non-essential visitors on site to the extent possible, any visiting individuals that have been approved to provide enrichment and special events will be subject to the same health assessment as staff and children.

### **Homework**

Time is set aside each afternoon for your child to work on their homework. Homework help is offered during this time. However, homework arrangements must be made between the parent and child. North Shore Youth Council staff will remind children about homework, but staff can only encourage your child to get their homework done. It will be the child's responsibility to stay on task and complete their homework.

### **Snack**

All children will be required to wash/sanitize their hands before and after eating.

Some parents may wish to send their child with breakfast and have them eat it at the program. We will not provide breakfast for children; if you are in need of a breakfast program, please contact the school.

Please be sure to pack a healthy snack for your child when they attend the After School Program. On the rare occasion a child forgets their snack, one will be provided.

Children will not be allowed to share snacks or drinks with other children. Please stress to your child the importance of not sharing any snacks or drinks with anyone, for both virus and allergy concerns. We ask that you avoid sending your child with any snacks containing peanut products. If your child has food or other allergies, and you did not indicate it on the registration form, please let us know as soon as possible.

If the cafeteria is being used for snack time, tables and benches will be disinfected accordingly.

### **Inclement Weather and Child Care Cancellation**

In the event of a school/district wide closing due to inclement weather, all childcare programs will be closed.

In the event of a delayed opening, there will be no morning care programs in the Mt. Sinai and Shoreham-Wading River School Districts. Morning care will still be held in the Rocky Point School District, but follow the 2 hour delayed opening.

In the event of an early dismissal or cancellation by the district of all after school activities, there will be no after school care programs.

A child care cancellation form will be made available to all parents/guardians indicating the procedure to follow in the event of any snow/emergency dismissals (ie; child will be picked up at school by designated individuals, child will go home on specific bus, etc.). It is your responsibility to ensure that your child has someone either picking them up at school or picking them up from the bus stop.

### **Communication**

If you are running late or anticipate a change in pick-up, we ask that you contact your Site Supervisor as early as possible. Each supervisor will be in possession of a program-operated cellular phone at all times during the program and can be reached on this phone whenever the before or after care programs are in session. If you receive a voicemail message, it is because the supervisor is busy at the moment you are calling. They will return your call promptly. The phone numbers associated with each site will be made available to parents on the first day of school.

If you need to speak to someone at a time when the program is not in session, please call our office at 631-744-0207.

The Program Director or Site Supervisors will contact you if the need arises to discuss any issues involving your child's behavior or comfort level within the program. We strive for ongoing and open communication with parents and encourage you to contact us as soon as an issue arises.

### **Discipline**

North Shore Youth Council will work to promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of all children who participate in any programs we offer. To this end, staff will provide appropriate, proactive supervision and will encourage safe and appropriate interactions at all times. Children will be supported in their navigation of social relationships and will be guided in their interactions; staff will use redirection, encouragement, and positive reinforcement in order to shape positive behaviors.

All children are entitled to a fun and safe experience in our program. If a child's behavior does not permit them to participate with the rest of the group in our program's activities, they will be temporarily removed from the group and supervised until they are ready to rejoin the rest of the group.

Physical aggression toward other children or program employees will not be tolerated. Children will be removed from the group and supervised, and parents may be called to pick their child up early if the problem becomes serious enough to warrant their removal for the day. Longer-term suspensions are possible for recurring problems.

Parents will be notified in writing, through an incident report form, by Site Supervisors whenever their child has been formally disciplined while in the program.

## **Fire Drills/Emergency Evacuation Drills**

Under NYS licensure regulations, our program is required to have an emergency evacuation plan and conduct regular fire drills. These will take place during both morning and afternoon programs.

Each site has an OCFS-approved Emergency Plan which includes an emergency evacuation diagram, primary and secondary evacuation routes, methods of evacuation, and the designation of primary and secondary relocation sites.

Plans are posted on the program site's information board and will be made readily available upon request.

Each program hold and documents two shelter-in-place drills annually during which procedures and supplies are renewed.

The Program Director conducts and documents monthly inspections of the premises to observe possible fire and safety hazards.