



Thursday, June 18, 2020

Dear Parents

A survey was sent out this past Monday to all our families. This was only a Survey and **not Registration**. The survey was sent to determine the need for childcare for **July and August** only.

Stephen Lecce's announcement that childcare would be reopening, and all parents' childcare spaces would not be lost was misleading. Yes, all our families are guaranteed a spot in our Centre when space is available. However, we are only allowed half the number of children in each program we had when we closed on March 13<sup>th</sup> which means we cannot provide childcare to all our families at this time.

To be fair and equitable we had to prioritize entry space for families that are in most need and working now in the summer as we identified on our survey Essential workers and Single or Two parent families working outside the home first. The guidelines set by the Government are very restrictive and must be adhered.

**Maximum Cohort Size and Ratio:**

- *Maximum cohort size for each room in a childcare centre (including each family age group) will consist of no more than 10 individuals ("a cohort"), space permitting. This includes both staff and children. There will be 2 staff for every program and up to 8 children.*
- *Each cohort must stay together throughout the day and are not permitted to mix with other cohorts. Space cannot be shared.*
- *A cohort is defined as a group of children and the staff members assigned to them, who stay together throughout the duration of the program for minimum 7 days. The cohort of the same group of 10 people or less (2 staff, 8 children) must be maintained day over day. Each member of the cohort must not be in contact with another cohort for the full 7 day period at a minimum, ideally cohorts should be maintained week over week*

**\*\*\*Due to this, a decision was made by our Board of Directors that priority will be given to children attending full days and kindergarten/school age attending full weeks at a time.**

**Please note: Hours of operation may vary for July and August this will be noted on summer registration**

We think there may have been some confusion for families by the line: NOT RETURNING TO SJCC until September 1, 2020. This line was for our kindergarten and school age families since they are not required to attend other the summer months. Many families submitted their Fall schedules on the survey but again this is only a survey for July and August and not registration. Fall registration will come out as soon as an announcement is made by the Ministry of Education as to the how they plan the school year to begin. We need the plan to be in place before registration is sent out, so we are not resending it out again.

We hope to have a reopening date very soon and we will be sending out our Summer Registration. Tentatively we hope the first week of July, however we have policies to put in place that will need to be submitted to the Health Dept., United Counties and School Boards. Both the Catholic School Board and the French Catholic School Board have not announced a date childcare can access their schools or confirmed classrooms available to operate our kindergarten and school age programs this summer. We await these approvals.

We recognize how difficult this time is for our families, but we must adhere to the Operational Guidelines from the Ministry of Education during COVID-19 Outbreak.