



# Cobble Hill Playschool's Plan for Opening

# A safe return to school...

CHP's commitment to child-led, play-based, early childhood education remains stronger than ever in these challenging times. When we closed our building on March 13th, we immediately transitioned to a remote learning model to honor the relationships we had built with our students and to provide families with at-home programming options that matched our in-class programming as closely as possible. Since then, we have consulted with experts across our great city and beyond to figure out how to return to our classroom in ways that align with our educational goals while prioritizing the health and safety of each member of our community.

The following plan outlines how we are preparing for the 2020-2021 school year during the ongoing pandemic.

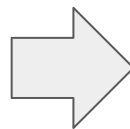
Note: This plan is as of June 26, as updated July 24, 2020 & August 11, 2020 and is subject to change based on incoming citywide, state, and federal guidelines and regulations as well as internal CHP policies..

# Opening School: September 14, 2020

In consultation with health experts, Cobble Hill Playschool has prepared its program to meet, and in many cases exceed, all new safety regulations related to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, our licensing agency, has authorized programs to reopen and has issued guidelines that direct the reopening process.

**CHP is asking all families to complete a 14-day quarantine OR submit proof of a negative Covid test prior to the first day of school.**



## Welcome to In-Person Schooling!

Cobble Hill Playschool will begin the 2020-2021 school year in our classroom, with the expectation that specific health and safety procedures will be required. We are planning for in-person schooling that is in session five days per week according to each child's contracted schedule.

### **If CHP is subject to a mandated closure on September 14:**

At CHP, the relationship between student and teacher is paramount. We will not use remote or online options at the start of the year. If closure is mandated on the first day of school, we will delay the start of school and make appropriate tuition adjustments.

### **If CHP is subject to a mandated closure later in the year:**

We are working to finalize our remote learning program as well as our tuition policies around long-term closures..

# What to Expect In-Person: Our Program

CHP's teaching philosophy remains unchanged:



Young children learn best through play. Our expert teachers create meaningful opportunities for exploration that build upon children's natural curiosities.



Strong relationships are the foundation for learning. Our teacher to student ratio remains 1:4 for 2s and 1:5 for 3s and 4s.



Community-building is as important as letter learning. In small groups or large, our focus on community and social/emotional learning benefits all.



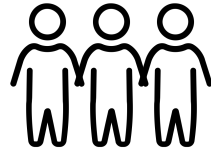
Arts are integral to early childhood learning. Because our arts specialists are on staff (rather than visiting artists), children will continue to have full arts programming.

# What to Expect In-Person: Health & Safety

It is important to remember that almost as much time remains prior to September than has passed since our initial closure in March. Much has changed and will continue to change. CHP is reviewing data daily, and we remain committed to best practices in health and safety.



- Staggered arrival and dismissal times minimize contact among families.
- Daily health screenings will include temperature checks.
- Staff may wear masks. Children likely will not.
- Children will wear school shoes, distinct from outdoor shoes.



- Children may be grouped in small, fixed groups of 10 or fewer.\* Children will still have access to all elements of our program.
- We will increase our supply of classroom materials to reduce the need to share materials without limiting play and engagement.
- Food will be served individually rather than family style.



- Staff will use enhanced sanitizing and cleaning processes.
- We have upgraded our HVAC air filtration system, and we will keep windows open throughout the day.
- Children and staff will wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- Staff will have received additional training specific to Covid-19.

\* Our 2s program will be two fixed group of 12 students. State & City guidelines mandate groups of fewer than 15 students.

# Health & Safety

**Community Responsibility:** *Dugnad*: a Norwegian cultural tradition where community members work together towards a common goal, for the greater good for all.

**Initial quarantine / testing:** We are asking families to make best efforts to ensure that everyone begins the year healthy.

**Ongoing responsibility:** We will be circulating a copy of our Covid-19 Safety Plan Addendum, which will include a statement of community responsibility. All parents and staff will be asked to sign to acknowledge receipt and agreement.

- Keep sick children home
- Honestly & promptly report any and all potential exposures
- Safe & healthy daily life in accordance with NY State guidelines

## Environmental Upgrades

### **Air Quality**

- Upgraded HVAC system including UV lights & Merv-13 filters.
- Four Dyson HEPA air purifiers throughout the classroom.
- Open windows
- Outside time as much as possible

### **Cleaning & Disinfecting**

- On-site laundry
- Enhanced nightly professional cleaning
- Second sink in the classroom
- Hand sanitizing stations in every group space and throughout the building
- Regular cleaning and disinfection throughout the day using EPA-approved products, including an electrostatic sprayer

# Health & Safety

## Health Screenings & Standards

- Daily health questionnaire at home
- Daily health screening upon arrival
- Temperature threshold of 100.0 deg. Fahrenheit
- Teachers will receive additional training about recognizing symptoms

## Protocol for families: Symptoms

- Stay home
- Call pediatrician for next steps
- Child cannot return to school until he or she has been symptom-free, without the use of medicine, for at least 48 hours
- If pediatrician recommends a Covid test, child cannot return to school until cleared\*

\* Specifics to follow.

## Protocol for families: Exposure

If a household member, including regular caregiver, tests positive for Covid-19, the child in the family must quarantine at home for 14 days.

If a child is exposed to someone (outside his or her household) who has tested positive for Covid-19, the child must quarantine at home for 14 days.

If a household member, including regular caregiver, is preventatively quarantining because they may have been exposed to someone who tested positive for Covid-19, the child may attend school. The adult in quarantine may not bring the child to school or pick up the child from school.

**Staff:** all policies and protocols for families apply to staff members

# Health & Safety

## Protocol: Confirmed case

The DOH guidance on managing a confirmed case states that centers should report to DOH and await instructions. This is not sufficient guidance to create policy, so CHP is in the process of working with medical professionals to confirm a policy of quarantine and closure in the event of confirmed cases.

That being said:

If a child is confirmed positive for Covid-19, that child's group (and any other identified contacts) will quarantine for 14 days. Teachers will provide remote learning.

If, within the 14-day quarantine, a second case is confirmed, the entire school will quarantine for 14 days.

## Cleaning after a confirmed case

School-wide, professional cleaning and disinfection happens on a nightly basis. We will also inform our cleaning service in the event of a confirmed case.

## Community Spread / Rising Positivity Rate

If NYC's positivity rate rises to a level that requires closure of schools, CHP will follow all applicable mandates, guidance, and recommendations. There may also be other conditions, beyond the City's positivity rate, that indicate a closure would be prudent, and we reserve the right to do so. We are currently developing a policy for tuition adjustments in the event of an extended closure.



# Your child's day

We will use a staggered arrival schedule. Arrival times will be either 8:45 or 9 and dismissal times (morning only) will be either 11:30 or 11:40. Afternoon arrival and dismissal will not be staggered.

Children will say goodbye upstairs. Staff will be on hand to support their transition into school.

Limited stroller and scooter storage is available in the gated area upstairs. Parents are encouraged not to leave strollers and scooters if possible.

Children and staff will change shoes in the lobby and use "inside shoes" in the classroom. PLEASE opt for laceless shoes.

We will begin and end each session with a morning or afternoon meeting and "puppet show" as usual, in our smaller groups.

Children will eat snack and lunch in their group area. All food needs to be packed from home.

Full day: 1 snack and a lunch

Half day: 1 snack

We are looking at ALL options for outside play and learning, including DiMattina Playground, DiMattina Ballfields, walking trips, the walkway between school and the playground, Coffey Park, and the Urban Meadow.

All teachers will be wearing masks all day and may also be wearing smocks or other coverings. We are working with both clear and cloth/disposable masks. All children are strongly encouraged to wear masks inside the classroom and are required to wear masks outside. Our teachers will provide the necessary support for this.

# Your child's day

Each group will have a dedicated lead teacher and a support teacher, who will be one of our art specialists or assistant teachers. We are working out the specifics of ensuring that each child has access to the full range of our program. Our teacher-to-student ratios will remain the same or better: 1:5 for 3s and 4s and 1:4 for 2s.

We have created four distinct areas of our classroom in which children will work, play, and learn. These areas will be replicas of our large classroom from past years and will include all learning centers. Two shared areas remain as distinct centers: the art center and the block area. Each group will visit these shared areas regularly, and the areas will be cleaned in between each group use.

Best practice in early childhood education requires multimodal teaching and learning and a multidisciplinary approach to work and play. Each academic subject will be addressed, and the social/emotional learning for which CHP is known will be a critical part of each group's day. Our teachers have already been teaching "all the subjects" and will continue to do so.

## Items From Home

We ask that children not bring ANY unnecessary supplies to school. Necessary supplies include (1) outerwear and (2) snack or lunch box. Please do not bring backpacks, toys, or other non-essential items. Children who benefit from a "lovey" or transition item may leave one at school that will always be available to them.

# What to Expect In-Person: Phase-In

CHP is committed to providing a calm and positive introduction to school for each child so that separation remains individualized and caring.

## Our youngest: our 2s

Phase-in typically lasts about two weeks, during which time children and families participate in school together. Children begin school with their caregivers for short periods, which extend over time, leading to independent attendance.

If parents cannot enter our classroom, we will use stoop and/or playground visits in place of classroom meetings as children and families meet our teachers. When children come to school, we will start with smaller groups and shorter intervals of attendance.

## Our 3s and 4s:

We have found that our 3s and 4s benefit from a shorter phase-in period. Typically, we invite parents into the classroom for the first 45 minutes of their child's first day, after which time our older students and expert teachers step in.

If parents cannot enter the classroom, we will work with each family prior to Day 1 to make a plan for arrival. Our teachers are experts at supporting successful transitions to school.

# Twos Phase-in

CHP is committed to providing a calm and positive introduction to school for each child so that separation remains individualized and caring.

## Week 1: 9/14

Our teachers will be conducting stoop visits and/or playground visits with families. A schedule of visits will be distributed in the coming weeks. Your child's schedule this week will NOT be their usual schedule.

## Week 2: 9/21

Children will attend school for shortened sessions 9:15 - 10:45 am on their regular school days (MWF or T/Th). We will support the separation process and begin to introduce the classroom and classroom routines.

## Week 3: 9/28

Children will attend school for full sessions. We will continue to support separation, and we will remain in close contact with parents and caregivers. We will manage separation based on the best approach for each child.

## Week 4: 10/5

Children will be fully immersed in their classrooms. Teachers will continue to reach out to parents with updates and information.

# Threes/Fours Phase-in

CHP is committed to providing a calm and positive introduction to school for each child so that separation remains individualized and caring.

## August 31 - Sept, 4

Our teachers will be reaching out to schedule and conduct Zoom conferences with each family - parents and children together. We

## Week 1: 9/14

Children will attend school according to their full scheduled sessions. Our teachers will support separation and focus on building comfort, community, and confidence.

## Ongoing:

Our teachers will focus on building community and learning new routines, including best practices for maintaining health and safety.

Children will work together to create names for their groups, and they will work to develop fun and creative ways to introduce themselves to each other. Although we will be working in smaller groups this year, we are still one community. Be on the lookout for the first intra-preschool mail delivery system!

# Separation

Our teachers are experienced and trained experts. Children may cry at drop off time. We will be there for anything and everything they need. We will not let your child cry all morning or all afternoon - or even much longer than a few minutes. We will call you if your child has trouble transitioning. We will take things at their speed.

You are also an expert, and you know your child best. We will talk with each family prior to the start of school to make sure we are all ready. When school begins, your job will be to confidently, simply, and calmly say goodbye. Your confidence in your children becomes their confidence in themselves! We will be sending some additional tips in the coming weeks to help families prepare for this exciting next step.

# What to Expect: For Parents & Families

Our school began as a group of parents looking for a shared learning experience with plenty of room for family involvement, and the dedication and innovation of that initial community remains. While we plan for in-person learning, we are also planning for alternatives to large, in-person gatherings so that we can continue to offer our robust series of family events:

## Interactive Curriculum Nights

Parents meet the teachers to learn more about the daily elements of our program.

## Duty Parenting & Parent Jobs

If we cannot invite families into the classroom, we will provide other ways for meaningful involvement in your child's education.

## Parent & Family Meet-ups

There are opportunities for outdoor or online engagement as we build community inside and outside of our classroom.

## CHP Talks Workshop Series

We host a series of talks with local experts on schooling options, behavior and child development, kindergarten readiness, and more.

# Duty Parenting & Parent Jobs

## Duty Parenting

This program is on hold until we can safely invite parents back into the classroom. In the meantime, (1) CHP is absorbing the work typically performed by duty parents, (2) parents are asked to help by packing their child's snack at home, and (3) we are working to develop other ways to give parents a peek into their child's day.

## Parents Jobs

This important part of our program will continue as usual. Jobs will be assigned in the coming weeks by email based on the preference you specified in your registration paperwork.



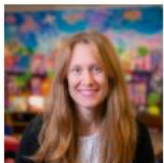
# Extended Hours Programming

CHP is in the process of building a vibrant after school program, summer camp program, and days-off camp program by partnering with the many wonderful organizations in Brooklyn like Child's Play NY and Chess at Three.

While this programming remains a part of our strategic planning, it is on hold until January when we will determine the feasibility of restarting it.

In January, we will also determine if we can re-open our early morning drop off program, which allows children to arrive as early as 8:30 am.

# We are ready.



Kristin Brady



Janie Greene



Stacy Foote



Kelsey Bailey



Nancy Dean-Hunt



Sharon Geha



Elizabeth (Lizzie) ...



Mel Johnston



Chloe Katz



Sandra Lambert



Angela Manfredonia



Patrycja Mlynarska



Caroline Ryburn



Aileen Santiago



Julie Veto



Sarah Ramani

Image links to  
online bios - please  
stop in to meet our  
teachers.

Our experienced team of teachers stands ready to welcome your child into our classroom.

Our community of families is already ready to go... and grow!

We will continue to send regular updates as we get closer to what we are sure will be a wonderful start to a new school year.

In the meantime, feel free to get in touch with any questions - we're here!

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# Shared learning. Shared planning.

We are all in uncharted territory that requires flexibility and innovation. With so much uncertainty, it's important to lean on our colleagues for collaboration. This safety plan was created with the help and support of the following networks:



New York Early Childhood  
Professional Development Institute

## BECDA

Brooklyn Early Childhood  
Directors Association



**CU**  
**NY** THE CITY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF  
NEW YORK



**THE COALITION**  
BROOKLYN COALITION OF EARLY  
CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS