



Tips for Early Childhood Educators During COVID-19

COMING BACK TOGETHER

As children come back to pre-school and childcare, we know that many things may be different. It is important to remind children that many things are still the same. Your role as a creative and responsive teacher is more important than ever. Acknowledge that things are different and set a positive tone for what is new.

WAYS TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S NEW



NEW WAYS TO SAY HELLO AND GOODBYE

Create a new way to greet children in the morning that is physically distant and fun—a hand wave or a body movement. Greet all the children by name and tell them how happy you are to see them. At the end of the day, consider a wave instead of a hug.



NEW WAYS TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS

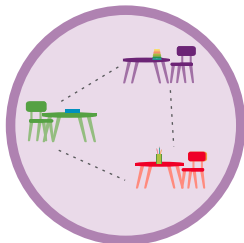
Wearing a mask hides your facial expressions and can seem scary to children. Consider taping a smile to your mask or wearing a pin on your shirt with your photo. Since you cannot rely on facial expressions to comfort children, it is important to explain your emotions.



NEW ROUTINES

After a long break, it is important to remind children of the expectations and routines of your classroom. Consistent structure helps children feel safe and confident about what will happen next. Involve children in establishing new routines to give them a sense of control.

COMING BACK TOGETHER (CONTINUED)



NEW LOOK FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

Your classroom may look different due to physical distancing or new safety requirements. Remind children that their teacher and friends are still there. There may be new toys and new activities, but there will still be fun and laughter.



NEW WAYS OF SHARING

Children may not be able to share toys or activities in your classroom in the same way as they once did. Create new ways to share through drawing, stories and games like “I Spy”. Create community in your classroom with a bulletin board or a collage that shares all the children’s work. Celebrate all types of families.

ACTIVITIES TO USE IN YOUR CLASSROOM

SESAME STREET COMMUNITIES - HEALTH EMERGENCIES

www.sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/health-emergencies/

RE-ESTABLISHING ROUTINES

challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Rebuilding-the-Pyramid.pdf

MA ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

www.massaimh.org/member-resources/covid-19-resources/



REFERENCES

1. Parlakian, R. (2020) Why are people wearing masks? Why are people covering their faces? <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3211-why-are-people-wearing-masks-why-are-people-covering-their-faces/>
2. Bartlett, J Griffin, J Thomson, D. (2020) Resources for Supporting Children’s Emotional Well-being during the COVID19 pandemic. <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supporting-childrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>