



CHILD CARE COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK, INC.

THINGS TO DO WITH THE “NEW NORMAL”

- We are living in unusual times and children are certainly impacted by the changes all around them. It is important that we continue to support children in a developmentally appropriate manner. In addition to being extra diligent about cleaning and sanitation, there are some considerations for our daily programs. Children will be seeing more people wearing masks and may have questions or concerns.
- When speaking with children, address their questions and concerns openly and honestly, providing just the right amount of information for the age group. People are wearing masks to keep us all safe and protect us from germs. This is also an ideal time to emphasize the need for frequent hand-washing.
- You can add masks wearing to your program..... have a morning meeting on age level to introduce the concept of masks for protection. With younger children, you could play a guessing game, “what kind of face do you think I am making under the mask?” like peek a boo, lifting the mask to show the facial expression with a tone to match the expression. Be sure to use expressive eyes as well.
- Add some fabric or paper masks to the dramatic play area. Model putting masks on their dolls to show how “you’re taking care of your babies.” Be sure the materials you are adding can be sanitized or machine washed at the end of the day.
- Have pictures of real people (doctors, veterinarians, etc.) wearing real masks. Help them understand that the mask is to help keep them safe and keep away from germs.
- For preschoolers and school-age children, this is an opportunity to write children’s own stories about what they are seeing in the world. Record their words and older school-agers can be encouraged to write and illustrate their own books. (a journal of “our new normal”). Video journals are another way to stay in touch with family and friends, share news, explore language, emotions, dramatic play (cooking or baking), or simple daily events.