



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
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GiGi's Playhouse Re-Opening

COVID-19 Response Handbook for Families

Updated as of January 13, 2022

Hello Playhouse Families!

The Playhouse staff, board and volunteers, in collaboration with the GiGi's Playhouse national office team, have worked hard to create a way to continue Playhouse programming and events while adhering to health and safety regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This handbook is designed to provide guidelines for how we will ensure that Playhouse participants and their families, along with all volunteers, staff and other visitors feel confident in our health and safety protocols. This is a team effort among all who come to the Playhouse. By adhering to these guidelines, we together create a safe environment for learning, connection, and fun.

General Health

You and your family are welcome to come to the Playhouse if you:

- Have not experienced COVID-19 symptoms in the past 48 hours.
- Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 5 days.
- Have not had exposure to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or believed to have COVID-19 in the past 5 days.

You should NOT come to the Playhouse if anyone in your group or household

- Exhibits these typical COVID symptoms:
 - Fever 100 F or above or chills
 - Persistent cough
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat; or
- Live with a household member who is currently isolating due to COVID-19 (more information below).

Staff and Volunteer Health Screening

Playhouse staff and volunteers will monitor and record their overall health daily. Staff and volunteers with symptoms of illness will stay home or go home.

Visitor Health Screening and Entry Procedure

- We request that all playhouse participants and families RSVP using the Playhouse's online calendar (located on website) before participating in a program, to ensure we can properly accommodate desired attendance.
- For non-program visits, please call or email to make an appointment when possible. To keep everyone safe, we may not be able to accommodate walk-ins if we are at capacity.
- Please check your and your family's overall health daily. Stay home if anyone is exhibiting symptoms of illness (see list above).
- The Playhouse entry will now have a check-in / sanitizing station upon arrival.
- A volunteer or staff member will ask questions about your overall health when you arrive. Those with symptoms of illness will need to be sent home.
- Please allow a couple minutes of extra time for this entry procedure when you come to the Playhouse.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings reduce the spread of respiratory droplets which may contain coronavirus. Medical-grade face coverings are not required at the Playhouse. Cloth face coverings, either homemade or commercial, are adequate. Bandanas, scarves, and neck gaiters ('buffs') can also work.
- All who enter the Playhouse over age 2 are expected to wear face coverings over nose and mouth in all areas of the building, including playhouse common areas, learning labs and entry areas.
- There may be occasional opportunities or requirements to remove a face covering. If face coverings are removed, increased social distancing practices and physical barriers will be emphasized. Examples of when individuals may remove their own face coverings include:
 - When facial expressions must be visible in order to engage in a program.
 - When engaged in intense physical activity during which face coverings hinder breathing or communicating.
- If a Playhouse chooses, and if permitted based on local community guidelines, the local Board they may permit visitors who have written proof of vaccination to forego wearing a mask. This is at the discretion of the Playhouse and may be implemented for some or all programs. In any case, Playhouse staff, regardless of vaccination status, will continue to wear a face covering.

Social Distancing

Staff, volunteers, and playhouse participants will remain six feet apart when possible, acknowledging that with children this may not always be possible or appropriate. To assist with compliance, GiGi's Playhouse will:

- schedule group sizes that can accommodate 6 feet of distance between each family group;
- stagger programs and lessons to avoid overlap when possible;
- plan seating arrangements and activities to promote six feet between participants and/or family groups;

- use outdoor spaces when possible.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- All will be given instructions on effective handwashing techniques.
- When a handwashing station is not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used.
- Parents are expected to monitor their child's handwashing and hand-sanitizing.
- For teens and adults who are dropped off at the Playhouse, staff or volunteers will monitor handwashing and hand sanitizing.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting

- Staff or volunteers will clean, sanitize, and disinfect rooms, equipment and surfaces throughout the day using Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended procedures.

GiGi's At Home Virtual Programming

- We plan to continue GiGi's At Home Virtual programming in combination with live, in-person Playhouse programming for the foreseeable future, to accommodate those who are not yet comfortable participating in the Playhouse setting.

Resources

- Wearing a Mask – story for children:
<http://gigisplayhouse.org/Gigisathome/Wearing%20A%20Mask.pdf>
- Wearing a Mask – 20 minute program for families through GiGi's At Home:
<https://vimeo.com/445390942>
- More resources will continually be added onto the GiGi's At Home Website here:
<https://gigisplayhouse.org/gigisathome/gigis-family-resources-printables-for-covid-19/>