

## WELCOME TO OPEN ARMS CHILD CARE CENTER 2020!

We've been up and running under the new Coronavirus guidelines for a while now. Overall, things have gone much more smoothly than I anticipated. Many thanks to all the parents and guardians who have helped make this transition during these unprecedented times better for your children and our staff. You have been incredibly understanding of the new guidelines and we could not be doing this without your support!

We do however expect strict guidelines, screening in the parking lot each morning and dropping off to your child's exterior classroom door to be the "new normal" for the foreseeable future. In addition, children ages two and up continue to be encouraged to wear masks and should be provided with one every day. Please make sure all information is complete on the morning screening forms as we are required by the state to keep them on file in case they are needed for contact tracing. Classroom teachers will check them and ask you to fill out any parts that you may have accidentally missed.

Through it all we are very excited to begin the new school year as well as our twenty-first year of striving to be the highest quality childcare and preschool program in the area. As a team of highly trained and experienced teachers and administrators, we are looking forward to familiarizing ourselves with you and your children and creating a wonderful learning environment where children grow to be successful socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively, and spiritually. We sincerely hope that this will be an enjoyable experience for you and your child.

Fortunately, the children are adjusting to the new guidelines with incredible ease. If your child seems to have some difficulty separating from you at drop off time, please be patient, supportive, and encouraging about school and their day at Open Arms. It will help ease worries and allow them to adjust a little more quickly. Also, know that the teachers will reassure your child that you will return and quickly distract them so that they are engaged in an interesting activity. Within minutes, your little one will have stopped crying and will be busy playing with the various toys and materials.

Please watch for information from MCM Fundraising about our fall fundraiser. We have had a great relationship with this local business over the years and we would like to continue to support them through this challenging time. If you've ordered from MCM before you know they usually provide us with pies, cookie dough and Butter Braids. Unfortunately, these items require direct contact at delivery and pick up time. This year they will be offering a different type of contactless fundraiser for us called *Simply Shipped* that can be shipped directly to you and will give you the option to order and pay online. It won't be pies and cookie dough but there are some great items that will make wonderful gifts this holiday season!

If you have any questions about any of the new state guidelines, please do not hesitate to ask. If there isn't time at morning screening I can always be reached at [kcouture@clcsouthwick.org](mailto:kcouture@clcsouthwick.org) or at 413-569-5151, extension 16.

Thank you,

*Kathie*