The Ark Children’s Center 3425 Emory Church Road Olney, Maryland 20832 301-774-5369 oakdale.church/ark

Friday, March 06, 2020

Dear Parents,

I’m outreaching to our preschool parents regarding proactive health practices to encourage healthy home and school environments. As mentioned in the Wednesday message this past week, we have been taking extra preventive measures in cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces including doorway frames, handrails, door handles, etc. This time of year, we always observe a higher number of absences due to sickness. This week has been no exception, with 18 students and 6 staff home from school. We APPRECIATE everyone’s diligence and sensitivity to be sure we are not sharing germs with others!

We are asking all parents to join us in **adopting good practices to prevent the spread of germs**. Here is a list of “must-do’s” to promote healthy environments!

* Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick and encourage family members to refrain from touching eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash.
* Most viruses are spread from person-to person contact and from surfaces where germs reside. Clorox wipes can help reduce the spread of secondary germ spread on surfaces.
* Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (sing “old MacDonald Song) BEFORE leaving your home for school and upon arrival home from school. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
* Please continue to call the office when your child is absent from school and let us know the nature of your child’s illness. Be vigilant in looking for physical signs that your child isn’t feeling well, including a change of energy level and change of temperament, chills, feeling warm, flushed appearance.
* It is essential that you follow our school health policies and CDC recommendations which state that individuals remain home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.

With the media news last night of 3 cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) reported in Montgomery County, I have printed the response of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for your view. In the event of an emergency announcement of school closure, our preschool will follow MCPS lead.

We appreciate your partnership in these efforts!

Susan Borst and The ARK Staff