



Franciscan Child Day Care Center

1401 Hamilton Road
Pittsburgh PA 15234
Phone: 412-882-5085 Fax: 412-437-3099

www.FranciscanChildDayCare.org

March 16, 2020

Dear Franciscan Child Day Care Families,

As the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to develop, the Franciscan Child Day Care Center is committed to doing what is needed to protect our families and staff and help slow the spread of the virus in our community. **At the recommendation of the CDC and local officials, the Franciscan Child Day Care Center will be closed from Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Friday, April 10, 2020.** This is being done out of an abundance of caution. There have been no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 at the Center. The Center plans to reopen on Monday, April 13 and we will update you of any changes as soon as possible.

This is challenging and uncertain time for us all, and your understanding and cooperation is appreciated. Per our policy, families will not be billed for the time the Center is officially closed due to the coronavirus situation starting March 17 until we reopen. Pennsylvania has also informed us that all children currently enrolled in the Child Care Works program will remain enrolled, and those with questions should call Child Care Works helpline at (877) 472-5437.

Please continue to check the HiMama app for important updates about the Center and our activities affected by the closure.

- **#PresleyStrong T-Shirts** were delivered on Monday, March 16 and can be picked up at the Center on Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18 between 9am – 3 pm. Or, you can pick-up when the Center reopens. T-Shirt sales will be temporarily suspended during the Center's closure.
- **Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** on April 4 has been canceled.
- **Sarris Candy Orders** will be delivered to the Center on Monday, March 23 and can be picked up from 11 am – 3 pm.

We continue to pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as for the health and wellbeing of our children, families and caregivers. Some resources for parents and guardians on how to talk to your family about the situation are included below with ideas for activities to nurture the imagination, curiosity and growth of our children while they are home from school and daycare.

Please know that the Franciscan Child Day Care Center will always act in the best interest of our children, families and caregivers. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Merlo via the HiMama app or at smerlo@osfprov.org.

Sincerely,

Sister Janet Gardner, OSF
President

Mrs. Sandra Merlo
Director



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Talking with Children about the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

- CDC:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>
- PBS Kids:
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>

Activities

- Scholastic Learn at Home:
www.scholastic.com/learnathome
- PBS Kids for Parents:
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/>
- Story Time Online:
<https://jbrary.com/storytime-online/?fbclid=IwAR2CYAWwonAQuXM5MwC4adBATitGntpsHorRVxaCLNeUAJj4gCgcCOFTLYo>
 - Tip: Check out your favorite author on social media. Many childrens authors are doing reading and other activities for children, like Oliver Jeffers and Mo Williams.
- Keeping Your Kids Happy, Busy and Learning (Time Magazine):
<https://time.com/5803373/coronavirus-kids-at-home-activities/>
- Indoor Activities for Kids:
https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/indoor-activities-for-kids/?fbclid=IwAR2vaUBp7mwRcQMripXV26CsD9CujZXQ3rNKZpC2Ugw-8fthgRR-Fv_1WM4
- Kids Activities Blog: kidsactivitiesblog.com
 - Free Educational Subscriptions:
<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/135609/list-of-education-companies-offering-free-subscriptions/>

At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again.

~ Mr. Fred Rogers

