



Childcare Tips & COVID-19 Safety Info

Many thanks to **DSA Red Sprouts**, whose training materials guided this document.

COVID-19 Safety:

- Always wear masks. Wash hands with soap and water
- Engage in remote activities as much as possible. When not possible, outdoor, socially distanced activities when in-person. Enforce temperature checks for in-person childcare
- Talk through with other parents in your timebank what safety protocols everyone is following. If you are doing in-person childcare, talk about communication expectations for if a child or someone in the child's pod has recently had risky contact.

Childcare Tips:

Basic Safety:

- Walk the space from a child's height.
- Look for knives and glass, hard/sharp edges, slippery surfaces, small objects that can be easily swallowed (or things kids easily choke on, including latex balloons), things that can be easily spilled/damaged.
- Tape over outlets or cover with furniture.
- Restrict access to radiators, which can burn children.
- No open flames, not hot beverages (burn risk).

Ahead of providing care, make sure you have basic medical/allergies info and emergency contacts. Talk through with the parent in what scenario you should call them vs. 911. In general, get the parent if something goes wrong, you have a bad feeling, and you don't know what to do. If a child's life is in danger, call 911, then call the parent. Remember that police interactions may present different levels of risk for families depending on immigration status, race, gender, etc.

Setting up the space:

Create a space that allows kids to choose what they want to do and have their own space (important for social distancing too!). You can have a reading corner, a quiet time corner, an arts corner, etc. Notice the energy, check in with each kid consistently, and keep everyone participating.

Respecting each other:

- Respect kids' consent. Ask before you hug, pick up or otherwise touch a kid.
- Ask questions about their preferences, especially about their bodies (ex: Would you like to go to the bathroom? Are you feeling tired?)
- Do not normalize one kid touching another kid when they don't want to be touched.
- Respect kids' pronouns. Ask if you don't know.