Dear Levis JCC Early Childhood Families,

We hope you and your families are healthy and safe. We appreciate your support and patience during these difficult and challenging times. We have been working to clearly outline for you our plans to address Covid-19 and the upcoming school year. Our plan will continue to evolve as new information and guidance comes in daily and addresses how we intend to adhere to the CDC recommendations and Palm Beach County and DCF guidelines. The situation is fluid; updates and changes to these policies may occur as we continue to consult with experts in the field and research best practices for keeping children, parents and our staff safe.

We have been busy cleaning and preparing the building for your return as we employ new policies and procedures to help keep you and your children as safe as possible during this unprecedented time.

As we begin the Early Childhood Center back to classroom process, we recognize that in order to be successful, a strong partnership with you will make a tremendous difference in how we move forward with the new challenges that face us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our teachers look forward to returning to Zale and being able to witness your child’s smiling faces in person. We have missed you all and we look forward to the start of school on August 18th!

Our school programs will change as we implement health and safety guidelines in accordance with the CDC, Childcare Licensing and our Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF).

Some of the immediate changes are:

**Pre-screening Staff and Children:** Temperature checks, using a no-touch forehead thermometer, will be taken on all staff prior to them entering our preschool. Temperature checks, using a no-touch forehead thermometer, will also be taken on all children prior to removing them from your vehicle. Any child exhibiting fever of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be admitted to our Early Childhood Center that day and may not return until fever-free (without use of medication) for a minimum of 24 hours. Any child who displays other visible symptoms of illness will not be accepted into school that day. This includes but is not limited to: coughing, sneezing, runny nose, rash, and lethargy. We ask that you err on the side of caution and be especially sensitive to all of our families and the possibility of contagion.

**Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures:** Parents may NOT enter the school. We will implement a drop-off and pick-up process in our carpool line to limit the number of people entering the building. We ask that you adhere to those times. Please remain in your car and do not congregate with others during this time. If it is necessary for you to drop or pick up at a different time, we ask that you call in advance and we will meet you outside to pick up or drop off your child. Once again, parents may NOT enter the building. Please note that in the past, Precare and Aftercare were able to drop off and pick up at any time. This year, our Precare and Aftercare families will have specific time frames for drop off and pick up that will be coordinated with your schedule.
**Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up Times:** Your staggered drop off and pick up time will be shared with you in our School Information Packet as part of our “Summer Mailing” Please be patient with us as we now need to pick up and/or bring your child(ren) one vehicle/family at a time. We require that all parents (or guardians that are dropping off and/or picking up your child) wear a face covering during this drop off and pick up process.

**Children Becoming Ill in School:** If a child begins to display symptoms of illness, including fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, lethargy, rash or other symptoms, s/he will be removed from the classroom. We will have a designated and separate room staffed for children identified with any signs of illness. Parents are required to pick up ill children immediately. We will call emergency contacts if your ill child is not picked up within 30 minutes. Parents need to call the school upon arrival, remain in your vehicle and we will bring your child out to you. (You will need to buckle in car seat)

**Hand washing:** We will require children and staff to wash their hands as they enter our school.) In addition, children (and staff) will wash their hands many times throughout the day, including: entering classrooms, returning from the playground, before and after eating, and using the bathroom. Hand-washing has been and will continue to be a regular routine practice throughout our day.

**Protective Equipment:** Note: Children 5 and under are not required to wear face coverings. According to the CDC, face coverings should NOT be put on children under age two due to the danger of suffocation.

- **Face Coverings** - All staff will be wearing face coverings, which cover their nose and mouth when in common areas of the building. This includes: drop off, pick up, hallways, playground, food preparation of any kind, diapering or bathroom assistance. They are encouraged to wear face coverings in the classroom at other times, but are not required to wear them by CDC.
- **Gloves** - We will continue to follow the Department of Health requirements regarding the wearing of non-porous gloves including: when in any contact with bodily fluids, feeding children and diaper changing.

**Lunches:** Hot lunch option will be re-evaluated for a January 2021. All lunches must be sent in a disposable paper lunch bag or large Ziploc bag; no lunch bags/boxes from home.

**Water Fountains/Water Cups:** For health and safety, the water fountains will be closed and not available for use. Children will continue to send in a LABELED water bottle for drinking use throughout the day. Water bottles will be sent home daily to be sanitized and sent back the following day.

**Naps/Bedding:** During naptime, we will keep mats at a minimum of six feet with children head to foot. Bedding must be limited to a crib sheet and small blanket for children who nap. Bedding must fit in a large Ziploc bags to be individually sealed daily.
**Large/Whole School Gatherings and Specials:** The same high-quality academic and play-based school day will continue for your children. However, there will be NO multi-class or whole school gatherings. All special activities, such as music, movement, yoga and Shabbat, WILL CONTINUE to take place and be held in your child's classroom. Playground time will be limited to one class at a time.

**Classroom/Facility Cleaning & Disinfecting:** The rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized and we will continue to maintain the new cleaning procedures. The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County has implemented the following enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols in response to Covid-19 as per recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Additional janitorial personnel are assigned to the Levis JCC/Zale to disinfect common areas with a professional Electrostatic Sprayer utilizing Aero Rough and Ready RTU disinfectant cleaner throughout the preschool buildings every evening. The sprayer provides complete disinfectant coverage on all hard and soft surfaces. The disinfectant used is Aero Rough and Ready RTU Disinfectant Solution, a US EPA registered broad-spectrum disinfectant. It is safe to use in schools.

**Respiratory Symptoms/COVID-19 Case:** Any child or staff showing signs of respiratory issues: coughing, tugging in the chest, wheezing or shortness of breath will be sent home and may not return for 10 days and must be cleared in writing by a medical professional. Parents are required to contact the preschool within 24 hours of finding out a medical diagnosis.

If a physician has cleared a child to attend sooner, the medical professional MUST in writing state “That the child, _____, was seen and evaluated for ____________. The child does NOT have Covid-19 and is able to return to childcare without placing another child or adult at risk”.

If any child or anyone in the home has been in direct contact with any person having a positive Covid-19 diagnosis, it is required that the Levis JCC Zale be notified immediately. Levis JCC Zale will notify the Health Department and the school is required to close and be thoroughly sanitized before reopening. Parents will be notified immediately if this happens.

These precautions are in place to provide every effort to keep every child, staff and family safe; however, this does not provide any guarantee of any kind. **You will be required to sign a waiver and agree to your acceptance of the Zale Policies & Procedures for COVID-19 before your child(ren) return to Levis JCC Zale-Early Childhood Learning Center.**

We are doing everything in our power to keep every child safe during this time and working together during this time is important. We have worked closely with CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Florida Department for Children and Families to develop our re-
opening procedures. We are providing you the direct links to this information if you would like to read more.

Click here for the CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs

Click here for Florida Department of Children and Families Guidance for Child Care Providers

We will announce a “Town Hall Q & A” via Zoom the first week in July and a scheduled “Back to Classroom” Zoom calls for Zale Early Childhood parents the first week of August to discuss our back to classroom plans and procedures. We encourage you to participate in one of these calls. Until then, please reach out with any questions or concerns to Adele Fine, Assistant Director, Levis JCC Zale Early Childhood, Adelef@levisjcc.org or (561)852-3233.

We know that during these unprecedented times it is important to communicate and inform you of all of the health and safety precautions the Levis JCC Zale is taking to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Thank you for your trust and support. We hope your families remain safe and healthy and look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Stacey Rosenberg
Early Childhood Director