

Fall, 2020



# SESAME SPEAKS!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of a productive and educational year at Sesame Sprout Preschool! I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of education, community and excellence that has always been a part of Sesame.

We are looking forward to an exciting school year, although somewhat different. Our teachers are working hard to make the opening of school amazing for all our students.

**In person learning will begin on 10/1/2020. All families will receive their child's schedule before the start date of school. A copy of the daily schedule will be posted on your child's Class Dojo page for remote and in person learning.** We have made a Sesame Lesson plan page for families to access that will give you information for all the lessons planned for the week, as well as meet the teacher for your child's class! The website is: <https://sites.google.com/view/sesamesproutschool/virtual-learning>. **You can also find this information on the Sesame Sprout website, Sesamesproutschool.com. A sample of what the remote/in person learning schedule look like.**



sample  
schedule.docx

Busing for our SED students: As of now there are no busing contracts. As we get closer to the opening of school on 10/1/2020, if no busing is set yet, please get in touch with our Principal, Celia Exelbert for information regarding **metrocards**.

**You can reach Celia Exelbert at [cexelbert@sesamesproutschool.com](mailto:cexelbert@sesamesproutschool.com) or by calling the school at 718-271-2294**

Sesame Sprout staff are highly qualified educators. All of our teachers are certified PKA teachers in Early Childhood. Our assistant teachers are level 1, 2, or 3. All of our SED teachers are dual certified in Preschoolers with Disabilities and Early Childhood.

Following the guidelines from the CACFP, all Sesame students will receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch. If your child is doing remote learning, the meals will be available for pick up at the school. In person meals will consist of individually wrapped breakfasts and lunch for your child. No outside food is allowed. Parents **MUST** inform their child's teacher and Ms. Lisa about their child's food allergies.

This year, school will start off a bit differently. We will be having a mix of in-school, blended and remote learning. Your children, no matter what platform you chose for them will have access to all of the lessons from our fantastic staff. You will be able to find all the lessons, videos, etc on the Sesame Sprout lesson website and on your Class Dojo's. **Our curriculum follows the NYC DOE thematic units. Each month a different theme will be taught, and each theme encompasses all parts of the core curriculum. Literacy, Math (Building Blocks), Science, Social Studies, Second Step (social emotional curriculum) Art, Music and Movement, Gross motor will be covered throughout each unit. The thematic units of study are: Welcome to PreK, 5 Senses, All About Us, Where we Live, Transportation, Light, Water, Plants, Babies and Transformation.** If your child is learning remotely, art supplies will be available for pick up at the school.

#### Holidays/School Closed

September 14-first day of school all remote for September

September 28<sup>th</sup>- school closed for Yom kippur

October 5<sup>th</sup>-first in person and blended cohort A in school

Please refer to the school website, [www.sesamesproutschool.com](http://www.sesamesproutschool.com) for information regarding resources to help you will Covid-19.

This year we are implementing new medical/safety requirements. There is also a copy of the health screening form that you must bring to school filled out each day. This form is also on our school website. They are as follows:

## **HEALTH SCREENING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PKA STUDENTS/PARENTS/EMPLOYEES/VISITORS /ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

### **PARENTS/STUDENTS: ARRIVAL**

1. Parents will line up socially distanced outside of the school at the main entrance.
2. When entering the building, parents will stay in the vestibule. Jennifer or Cinthia will open door and take your health survey and student's temperature. If child has no fever, they will be admitted into school, or if they have fever, will take their child home.
3. Hand sanitizer will be given to the student before entering their classroom
4. Parents will sign their children into the daily attendance form which is located in the vestibule. Parents will look for their child's class and name and sign them in.

### **PARENTS/STUDENTS: DISMISSAL**

1. Parents will come into vestibule one at a time and identify their child to Jennifer or Cinithia.
2. Parents will find their child's class and name and sign them out of school. Jennifer or Cinithia will then bring their child down to the main entrance.
3. If your child is being picked up by someone other than yourself, please inform the school no later than 1:30. Identification is required if someone else is authorized to pick up the child.
4. Jennifer or Cinithia will get the child from the classroom and bring them to the front. The parent will then sign their child out of school.

### **EMPLOYEES: ARRIVAL**

1. When employees arrive at school they will hand in their health screen to Jennifer or Cinthia to check over and their temperature will be taken. They will then badge in.
2. Hand sanitizer is located on top of the badge in area to use after you badge in.
3. Staff health screening forms will be returned to staff daily and collected at the end of the week for filing.

## **VISITORS:**

**ENTRY BY VISITORS WILL BE LIMITED INTO THE FACILITY BASED ON IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY.**

Upon arrival, visitor must be wearing masks for entry into the school. Visitors will come into the vestibule and will receive a health screening form to be filled out and filed.

Temperature will then be taken. If no temperature, visitor will be able to enter the building and utilize the hand sanitizer.

### **HEALTH SCREENING FORM:**



Student-Employee-  
Visitor-Health-Screer



Student-Employee-  
Visitor-Health-Screer

**As Curriculum and PKA Coordinator, I can be reached by email at [jaronin@sesamesproutschool.com](mailto:jaronin@sesamesproutschool.com) or by calling the school at 718-271-2294. Our parent coordinator is Marina Martinez. You can reach her at [mmartinez@sesamesproutschool.com](mailto:mmartinez@sesamesproutschool.com) or by calling the school at 718-271-2294.**

We understand how this is an exceedingly difficult time for a lot of our families and we are here to help in any way we can. Please reach out to the front office or to your teachers for anything you might need. For those of you who are familiar with the remote learning platform, it will continue as it has been. If you are new to remote learning, do not worry, our staff and your teachers will be guiding you through how to log onto Zoom and Class Dojo.

Our school is a place where all staff members are committed to helping children succeed every day! Your child(ren) will be filled with learning, laughter, smiles and innovations.

A common theme that Sesame has is parent involvement. Our school is a place where strong connections are made between home and school. I highly value these characteristics and believe that our school community will continue that path of excellence with your support and participation.

**Best Regards,**

*Jennifer Aronin, Curriculum Coordinator/PKA Coordinator*

## **REMOTE LEARNING FOR FAMILIES**

### **1. Set (and keep) a schedule**

The closer this is to a 'school schedule,' the easier it will likely be on everyone. You obviously can (and probably should) revise whatever you come up with at first to fit your circumstance at home (your work schedule, sleeping schedules, etc.). But once you've got something that works, stick to it. And this almost certainly means to use some sort of timer to at least clarify how much time is being spent on what.

### **2. Make sure they have any materials necessary to complete all assignments**

Whether its pencil and paper, a stable WiFi connection, log-in information for all accounts, access to Class Dojo and Sesame Lesson Website

### **3. Provide an environment conducive to learning**

This isn't always easy. If they're too isolated, it's difficult to check in with them. If they're at the kitchen table, depending on the child or their environment, they may be too distracted. This is even more challenging when everyone is home and the house is full.

### **4. Create a daily plan**

Creating a daily plan isn't just a matter of scheduling. A daily plan looks at the schedule and then identifies to-do items for that day and combines the two for a specific plan for that specific day.

### **5. Don't teach—help them understand**

Helping students understand is one of the more obvious remote learning tips for parents. Helping your preschoolers to understand what is being taught, instead of teaching it will feel more rewarding to children. Sitting right beside your child is beneficial for them to work at the best capacity.

### **6. Check messages and communicate with school**

Check for messages daily from teachers and make sure to reply to any messages that require one.

### **7. Keep in mind that it's about the child, not the work**

This can be difficult for some parents to keep in mind when there is so much pressure (on everyone) to complete the work. Take time with your children to complete the work given, even if you post one activity a day of your child learning is wonderful.

### **8. Learn to identify the barriers**

Figure out how your child learns best. Diagnostic teaching is one approach that can help here but the big idea is to identify precisely why your child might be struggling: Is it focus? Motivation? Too much or too little structure? Do they need a hug or finger-wagging or for you to sit with them?

And if it's a knowledge deficit, exactly what do they not understand? When students say, 'I don't get it,' the first step is to identify exactly what 'it' is—and this isn't always easy. Most students don't know what they don't know. That's why you (and an internet full of resources) are there to help them making this an especially powerful remote learning tip for parents.

### **9. Use school resources**

Contact your child's school, as well as the local school district and state education resources for support. This is especially critical if your child has an IEP and requires additional support and services at school.

### **10. Personalize the learning**

You can almost always personalize your child's learning space (sound, light, room, equipment, etc.) and you can likely adjust their schedule. Use your child's strengths and gifts and build backward from them as much as possible.

### **12. Encourage a growth mindset**

This isn't about what to learn or how to learn but rather how to think about what they're learning

### **13. Mix in Genius Learning**

The goal is to help empower your child to see learning as something they have control of and that curiosity can lead them anywhere.

### **14. Organize their learning environment**

Or help them organize their learning environments (both physical and digital). How this happens depends (as with everything else on this list) on your circumstance: Are you using a Learning Management System (LMS)? Are classes meeting live? Daily or weekly? Does your child love learning or has school been a struggle for them? Is there a fixed curriculum? Any flexibility in that fixed curriculum?

### **15. Encourage self-direction**

The more they own their learning—and ideally have voice and choice in their work—the easier and more fulfilling everything will be for everyone.

### **16. Honor the complexity of learning**

Think differently about 'helping' your child 'with their school work.' Realize that your child needs a wide range of 'support': academic, collaborative, psychological, technological, disciplinary, etc.

### **17. Help them find their own motivation**

Motivating a child is one area where parents are (ideally) better than any teacher could be. The idea here is to help them 'want to' learn without making all motivation external and independent from the actual value of the knowledge being gleaned.

