Dear Early Childhood CARES Parents

As the COVID pandemic continues to impact our lives, our commitment to providing quality services to your child and family stays strong. The number of COVID cases has increased this Fall and projections for the Winter are that positive case rates will be steady. We remain committed to providing in-person classroom services as we believe young children will make better progress when learning can happen in the presence of other children and supportive teachers. We will however, utilize recent metrics from the Oregon Department of Education for opening classroom services. We have also worked diligently to develop an Operational Blueprint, approved by the Lane County Public Health, that provides comprehensive health and safety guidelines for in-person classroom services. To open our in-person classrooms, including Early Education Program classrooms, we must meet both the County Case Rate and the Test Positivity rate:

- **County Case Rate**
  - Less than 100 per 100,000 people over a 14-day period – (we are currently at 277 per 100,000 people)

  And

- **County Test Positivity Rate**
  - Less than 8% - (we are currently at 3.6%)
Current Lane County Metric 12/14/20 | Begin In-Person Classrooms
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County case rate Per 100,000 people over 14 days | Less than 100 per 100,000 people
277 | AND

County Test Positivity rate | Less than 8% positivity
3.6% | 

Service Delivery Model | Comprehensive Distance Learning
Includes some in person evaluations, some in person “office” visits and in person consultation in some open preschool and child care sites. | Early Childhood CARES and EEP Classrooms will open, as possible, based on staffing and other circumstances. *

*Some Early Childhood classrooms will remain virtual

If we meet this metric, we must open within a 14-day window from the time the metrics are met.

- **All other Early Childhood CARES Services:**
  - Home visits will remain virtual at this time. Families can be seen in-person in our building when virtual services are not feasible. We are not allowed to go into homes at this time.
  - Children attending a community preschool will continue in this setting as long as they remain open. Our services to Community Preschool settings, such as consultation or speech therapy will be provided either in person or virtually based on staff availability and preschool preferences.
  - Evaluations will be conducted virtually, but can be provided in person if a virtual evaluation is not feasible.
- Virtual preschool classrooms will continue to operate

We look forward to our continued collaboration with you and value our relationship with you and your child. Our goal is to continue to serve your child and family to the best of our ability, providing quality services, while balancing the health and safety of your child and our staff. Please let your child’s Teacher or Service Coordinator know any questions you may have as we begin our services again in January 2021.

LaWanda Potter and Kim Giansante
Co-Directors / Early Childhood CARES