



August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Racker Preschool & Child Care Families,

I want to take the opportunity, once again, to express my deep gratitude for your support, patience and dedication. I also am following through with my commitment to notify families about child care by Today, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our program continue to evolve and surface. One impact that we are continuing to function with is space and the effect on the maximum number of people per classroom. As a Special Education Preschool Program, Racker provides services to a group of children, who the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has identified as the highest priority for in person services.

The In Person model, with the needed spacing for social distancing, does not allow for a fully integrated Special Education Integrated Setting (SCIS) program model. Racker's in person SCIS model will follow the following phases:

**Phase One:** SCIS approved children only onsite from 8:30am – 1:30 pm

**Phase Two:** A dedicated Child Care Classroom in Cortland and in Ithaca to allow for childcare services for 10 children from 7:30 am – 4:30pm.

- This is dependent on infection rates, and is not anticipated to be offered until October 2020 at the earliest.

**Phase Three:** As space and infection rates allow, cohorts of children will join the SCIS classrooms.

**Phase Four:** In this phase, Racker will offer wrap around care services for children enrolled in the SCIS program.

Here's a FAQ guide that outlines some of the details of child care:

**Q: What does that mean for child care?**

A: A Racker daycare room will not be available until at least October 2020.

**Q: What if my child is daycare but has an IEP?**

A: Following NYSED's identification of preschoolers and children with special needs, Racker will prioritize day care children who receive related services, such as speech, occupation, physical and counseling therapies, for placement in day care when it becomes available.

**Q: How do I see if I can have a daycare spot when Daycare opens?**

A: If you are interested in daycare services, when we are able to provide them, please contact your school site director to express your interest.

- Cortland- Sonia Ferro      soniafcp@racker.org
- Wilkins- Kim Higgins      kimh@racker.org

**Q: What if there are more than 10 children for daycare?**

A: Racker will maintain a daycare wait list and add children to the list on a first come first served basis.

- As we move to Phase 3 and a cohort of daycare children are moved to a SCIS classroom, we will move children off the waitlist to the dedicated daycare room.

**Q: What about wrap-around for my child?**

A: Racker will continue to monitor infection rates, maximum group sizes, based on social distancing guidelines, and the safety of combining groups, and offer wrap-around care for children enrolled in the SCIS program when it has been determined that we can safely do so.

The summer was full of fun and celebrating your children whether in person or remote! We are looking forward to working together, and traveling the ever-changing road of education during a pandemic, with you for the 2020-2021 school year.

Be well!

*Gretchen Jacobs*

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