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March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

As the week has evolved, we have been closely monitoring the news and talking with parents and staff. Using that information, *Sophia's Hearth has determined that we will close our childcare program for the next 2 weeks beginning on Monday, March 23.*

We will reassess before April 6 and make the decision about reopening based on the best information available from reliable news sources and government advisements at that time. If the Governor releases public schools to reopen, we will follow that recommendation and re-open on that date.

This has been a very difficult decision for us to make. Please know we are deeply committed to meeting your family's need for high quality, reliable childcare. In these extraordinary circumstances, however, we believe that the health of our community must be our highest priority.

Your tuition payments for these two weeks of service will be credited to your account. No tuition is due when our program is closed for this reason. Both Cynthia and I will be working during this time and we are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please call or email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you all for your patience while we have been working to make the best possible decision. We know that you, like us, are facing a daily struggle to decide what is the best thing to do for our families and our community.

Our wish is that we use this time to share comfort with our children and families. The anxiety that is affecting us all is particularly hard for young children. They feel it deeply but do not have the ability to understand or express it in a healthy manner. You may well see unusual behaviors that do not fit the circumstances. Remember that the changes in their daily life create uncertainty and uncertainty feels very much like fear. Most of us are struggling to manage our own uncertainty now, so we can empathize with how difficult it can be.

Your presence and comfort are the best balm for their bodies and souls. Be kind and patient with yourself and they will absorb that feeling as well.

We will be in touch as soon as we have any new information or decisions. We hope that this 2-week period will see us all through the worst of this containment period. We will reopen at the earliest, safe time and look forward to seeing you then.

Warmest regards,

Karen Lamoureux  
Executive Director

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*"discovering the wisdom of childhood"*

