March 16, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Live and Learn Early Learning Center will close on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. At this time, we plan on returning April 6, 2020. This parallels the time UNH and all public schools will be out.

We are governed by the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Licensing and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is committed to the health and wellbeing of young children and all who care for, educate, and work on their behalf. As a public health matter; and in order to meet the goals of flattening the curve to save lives, NAEYC believes that if states and districts are closing schools, then they also must close the child care system.

Child care is not like the K-12 system in which schools will be able to reopen and educators will be compensated regardless of the length of time schools are closed. Staff must be compensated during closures, and child care programs, across states and settings, therefore need significant investments if they are going to survive—and this moment has made it clear how essential it is for child care to do so, for the good of children, families, businesses, and our nation's safety, security, and economy.

We understand that the economic effects of these times leave us feeling extremely uneasy and fearful for our household and communities ability to survive the financial hardship. We have charged this week’s full tuition and must do so in order to evaluate the obligations, cover the full teachers’ salaries that are fully committed and reliant on the tuition being paid. Moving forward the following 2 weeks of tuition will be will be sharing the burden of this pandemic financial hardship with the families. We will be applying a 25% tuition credit per child/ week. The teachers will be compensated at 75% as well, with our business covering their insurance as normally paid in full. We understand this is difficult and must make this decision so that we have some chance of being able to survive as a business through this pandemic and be ready to re open when allowed and have all our quality teachers and environment available for your family.

There is the possibility that this closure may be extended. We will keep you informed. We will be reviewing guidance from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the NH Department of Education, and the CDC, and making decisions that are best for our school and community.

In over four decades of service to children, I have never had to close school for a prolonged period of time. Why now? The CDC is recommending six feet distance between people (social distancing). Schools are densely populated, so it is impossible to create the distance recommended by the CDC since COVID-19/the Coronavirus spreads through person to person contact and is highly transmissible. In addition, the CDC recommends you self-quarantine. You and your family, should, as much as humanly possible, stay at home, wash your hands frequently, and follow other recommendations by our CDC. This letter can be found on our website with all of our communication to date.

We are in unprecedented times. We care greatly for you and your children, our educators and this community and want you to be safe. We will continue to communicate throughout the closure.

Sincerely,

Johanna Booth-Miner and Sarah Miner

Live and Learn Early Learning Center