



Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Early Childhood Ready for Learning

The Arkansas Department of Education is committed to supporting ABC Early Childhood programs as they prepare for the 2020-21 school year with the challenge to reassess program plans in order to be sufficiently prepared for learning. All ABC Early Childhood programs, like K-12 schools, will be expected to provide onsite instruction at the beginning of the school year. Virtual learning will not be an option in lieu of onsite learning. However, ABC programs directly associated with school campuses that have a limited number of “digital days” built into their schedule as a make-up option for the late start of school may participate in a digital learning option not to exceed five days total.

If an entire school district or educational cooperative closes as a COVID-19 precaution, ABC programs associated with those LEAs may remain open. ABC programs not affiliated with school districts or educational cooperatives will also remain open. ABC Early Childhood Centers should consult with DESE and ADH when determining the appropriate level of response related to COVID-19.

The *Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program - Early Childhood Ready for Learning* document identifies priority areas that align with guidance provided to K-12 school districts to be Ready for Learning. Before school starts, ABC Early Childhood Ready for Learning teams should do the following:

- Review each **Priority Area** in the first column of the *Ready for Learning* planning chart.
- Review essential tasks and procedures to be considered **Before School Opens** in the second column of the *Ready for Learning* planning chart.
- Develop **On-site Learning Plans** aligned with guidance from ADH and DHS and detail the procedures and activities in column 3 of the chart.
- Develop **School Closure Response Plans** in the event that there may be a required, schoolwide closure aligned with guidance from ADH and DHS in column 4 of the chart. Areas not applicable are greyed out on the chart. All school closures will be guided by ADH and ADE.
- Submit a completed *ABC Program - Early Childhood Ready for Learning* document to your ABC Program Specialist before the start of the 2020 school year. All applicable items, not greyed out, should be addressed in the *Ready for Learning* planning document.

In an effort to create and maintain a safe environment, many safety precautions are strongly recommended by the ADH and DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Recommendations for precautions can be accessed on the following websites:

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) COVID-19 Directives, Orders, and Health Guidance
<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-health-guidances>

Arkansas Human Services Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)
<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece>

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program – Early Childhood Ready for Learning

Program Name:			
Submitted By:			
Contact Info:			
Site(s) and Facility #			
Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description	
		On-Site Learning Plans	School Closure Response Plans
District Operations and Fiscal Governance			
<p>Attendance:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website – Example COVID- 19 Attendance Sheet https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Review procedures to document and maintain enrollment and attendance in COPA (note new attendance options)</p>		
<p>Limitation of Person(s) in Facility:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website- Child Care Guidance from the Department of Health https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Review plan to prohibit person(s) from facility with the exception of essential persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facility staff • persons with a legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, childcare licensing staff, DHS Child Protective Services staff • professionals providing services to children • children enrolled at the facility • parent or legal guardians who have children enrolled AND have scheduled appointment 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other professionals conducting services that cannot be done after hours, e.g., plumber repairing broken pipe • Adults MUST wear face coverings 		
Update ABC Parent Handbook:	Review and update ABC Parent Handbook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent/child expectations • daily screening process • procedures for possible exposure to COVID-19 • COVID-19 safety measures • transition plan from on-site to remote learning in emergency situations • Highlight new procedures/rules in the handbook 		
Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans	
Facilities and Transportation			
Common Areas: Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website - Child Care Guidance from CDC https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece	Review management procedures for common areas while maintaining the CDC recommended social distancing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health and safety checkpoint(s) • hallways • water fountains • restrooms • cafeteria • playground • other - 		

<p>Transportation (if applicable):</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website - Child Care and Pandemic Requirements 2020 https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p> <p><i>Child Care Pandemic Requirements for transportation do not apply to school district busses.</i></p>	<p>Review transportation procedures (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe strategy for bus or van transportation of students to/from the program disinfection process social/physical distancing of students Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for drivers and support staff 		
<p>Priority Areas</p>	<p>Before School Opens</p>	<p>Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans</p>	
<p>Academics</p>			
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Review procedures to gather individual child work to document developmental progress according to – Work Sampling and/or Ounce</p>		
<p>Curriculum/Instruction/ Assessment (CIA):</p> <p>Example and supports for learning experiences: Explorers Curriculum http://asuchildhoodservices.org/#!/preschoolexp</p>	<p>Review procedures to utilize, implement guidelines and learning plans for CIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify curricula (for all settings) children - schedule and routines children – new COVID-19 health and safety routines in-depth training and guidance for teachers and paraprofessionals 		

Professional Development: Staff Training and Support	Identify needed training and support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education or Learning Management System (LMS) Platform (e.g., SeeSaw, ZOOM, Google Classroom) • program procedures including COVID-19 according to CDC, DHS, ABC guidance/process • program health-safety procedures (e.g., chemicals, first aide, nosebleeds) 		
Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans	
Human Capital			
Staffing and Schedules:	Review schedules and staff responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinator/director • teachers • paraprofessionals • support staff • floaters • special education staff • others 		

<p>Class Ratio/Group Size:</p> <p>Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) website - Pandemic Requirements 2020 https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Maintain groupings for children of no more than 10 (including the teacher) following class ratio according to ABC, Arkansas Minimum Licensing, and room capacity (whichever is less for age group) AND dividing children into smaller cohorts (e.g., 20 children divided into 4 groups of 5 with 2 teachers overseeing 10 each) - learning centers, group instruction, meals, walking in hallways, lining up, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain same group of children and teachers • visual marking to assist and provide visible reminder of the recommended CDC safe social distancing of 6 feet • nap time – cots/mats should be spaced out as much as possible – ideally 6 feet apart, positioning sleeping arrangements – head to foot placements • staggered schedule for playground times • staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, floaters, coordinator, substitutes, etc.) • use of PPE equipment 		
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<p>Classroom Arrangements:</p>	<p>Arrange classroom(s) allowing for learning centers, more space for movement, and social/physical distancing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • items to be removed and returned when safer conditions warrant (water table, sand table, soft toys, cloth items, communicable items – playdough, paints, writing instruments, cozy nooks, etc.) • learning centers • small group learning • large group (10 or less) learning 		
<p>Arrival/Departure Procedures:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website – Child Care Guidance from CDC https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website - CCDF Authorized Sign-in Representative Form https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website - COVID-19 Screening Example https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Review arrival/departure procedures for the most current CDC and social distancing guidance to screen adults and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stagger arrival and pick up times • multiple screening stations – to expedite process, avoid long wait lines, etc. • sanitary practices according to CDC to be observed • daily procedure to screen children and adults entering building – including entrance point, temperature, health questions, etc. • temperature check and record (if 100.4 F or above – NOT permitted to enter) • ask questions and record answers - signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (if answer yes or have other signs of illness – NOT permitted to enter) • caregivers sign child in and out of center 		

Recess/Gross Motor:	Review recess and gross motor activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• implement rotation schedule of classrooms to allow lower numbers of children and increase opportunities to spread out on the playground• hands will be washed before entering and after leaving play area• sanitary practices according to CDC to be observed• staff use of PPE equipment		
Substitutes:	Review Pre-K substitute procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• substitutes will be vetted – including background checks, etc.• substitutes will receive training on current guidelines and CDC protocol• substitutes will follow CDC screening protocols• substitutes use of PPE equipment		

Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans	
Student Support			
Developmental Screening:	Review procedures for developmental screenings to determine individual needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • screen each child • if developmental delays, identify next steps • staff use of PPE equipment 		
Special Education and Related Services (OT, PT, Speech, Dyslexia, etc.):	Schedule meetings between ABC and special education providers to collaborate, communicate expectations, and detailed plans to therapists, teaching staff, and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • referral process and procedures • consent form procedures • parent conferences • process and procedure to provide services according to child's IEP and/or IFSP • process for denial of services 		
Social Emotional Learning (SEL):	Develop a plan for ABC Staff to connect with children and families utilizing a variety of strategies and tools to build relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce teaching staff and tour of classroom prior to first day of school • utilize Conscious Discipline rituals • individual and small group instruction • engage families 		

Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans	
Stakeholder Communication & Family and Community Engagement			
Caregiver(s) Communication:	Review procedures for regularly communicating with caregiver(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expectations – child and caregiver • learning instruction and guidance • student progress • frequent updates • learning check-ins and reporting 		
Priority Areas	Before School Opens	Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans	
Health and Safety			
Student Resources and Materials	Review student resources for safety precautions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual containers with learning materials/supplies (crayons, pencils, safety scissors, glue, playdough, etc.) • individual materials to enhance learning (books, games, sensory items, etc.) 		
Center Time Procedures:	Review center time procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual container labeled with child name consisting of items such as writing utensils, safety scissors, glue, sensory items, playdough, etc. • assign groups of children to centers for safety purposes- students will have a set amount of time in each center then rotate 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys or items that are put in a child's mouth, sneezed on, etc. will be removed from the center and placed in a "sanitizer bin" until items can be properly sanitized by staff center items that are - soft toys, cloth, cannot be cleaned or disinfected, or may encourage children to place in their mouth (play food, dishes, utensils, cloth dress-up clothes, etc.) should be boxed away and returned when safer conditions warrant 		
<p>Cleaning/Sanitation Procedures:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website- ChildCare Guidance from the Department of Health:</p> <p>https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p> <p>DCCECE Minimum Licensing Requirements</p>	<p>Review cleaning and sanitizing procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bleach solution (refer to DHS Arkansas Minimum Licensing and ERS guidelines) cleaning products – follow safety guidance on label high contact items and areas will need to be sprayed down with bleach solution once students switch centers and at the end of the day surfaces and tables will be washed/sanitized using the two step-cleaning procedure in ERS guidelines restroom toilets and sinks – faucets, handles, doorknobs will be sprayed with disinfectant after each use or before another classroom uses the restroom restroom(s) will need to be cleaned/sanitized by building custodian at least once during the school day while children are present 		

<p>Emergency Drills:</p>	<p>Review emergency/evacuation plans and measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency kits/bags – according to Minimum Licensing Requirements • maintain same group of children and teachers • maintain social/physical distancing of children 		
<p>Meal Procedures for Classes:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website- ChildCare Guidance from the Department of Health: https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Review procedures for meals and snacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for programs that rely on food service from school district, review food service options if schools are closed • hands will be washed before entering and leaving the room • location of meals and snacks • seating arrangement – social/physical distancing • individual meal containers and utensils • individual service of food (family-style services is not allowed at this time) • sanitary practices to be observed • time in the hallway to be limited • staff will wear PPE protective equipment 		

<p>Positive COVID-19:</p>	<p>Review procedures and plans if center or classroom experiences a “positive” COVID- 19 case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immediately call for guidance - ADH COVID-19 School and Child Care Hotline 833-504-0155 • follow ADH COVID-19 Hotline guidance • follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect the facility • ABC Coordinator must contact the ABC Program Specialist 		
<p>Staff and Essential Personnel Procedure to Enter Facility:</p> <p>Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website-Child Care Guidance from the Department of Health: https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece</p>	<p>Review daily CDC screening procedures for all staff and essential personnel prior to entering facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff must wear face covering • temperature check and record (if 100.4 F or above – NOT permitted to enter) • ask questions and record answers – signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (if answer yes or have other signs of illness – NOT permitted to enter) 		
<p>Priority Areas</p>	<p>Before School Opens</p>	<p>Program and/or School Action(s) and Description On-Site Learning Plans School Closure Response Plans</p>	
<p>Technology</p>			
<p>Technology:</p>	<p>Develop home technology survey to identify needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age appropriate devices • learning platforms • IT support • Distribution/Retrieval Plan (e.g., documentation of receipt and return, user agreement, Q and A – what to do if...) 		

Resources and Guidance:

Arkansas Human Services Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece>

[DCCECE Information Regarding COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

[Child Care Provider Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[COVID-19 child Care Assistance for Essential Workers FAQs](#)

[COVID-19 Child Care Provider FAQs](#)

[Child Care Pandemic Requirements 2020](#)

Helpful Links

[Child Care Guidance from Department of Health](#)

[Child Care Guidance from CDC](#)

[CCDF Authorized Sign-In Representative Form](#)

[Covid-19 Screening Example](#)

[EXAMPLE: Covid-19 Attendance Sheet](#)

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) COVID-19 Directives, Orders, Health Guidance

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-health-guidances>

[Directive on Face Coverings](#)

[Directive Regarding Large Indoor Venues](#)

Arkansas Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers

https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/dccece/Final_CCC.pdf

Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) – COVID-19 Information

<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information>

Arkansas State University Childhood Services – Explorers Curriculum

<http://asuchildhoodservices.org/#!preschoolexp>