

FROM _____ [NAME OF SMARTSTARTER] DATE _____

Dear parent or caregiver

I am pleased to let you know that I am planning to re-open my ECD programme. However, the Coronavirus pandemic means that I need to work closely with you to help keep everyone safe. Please read this letter carefully and then sign and return the slip at the bottom.

My programme will re-open on _____ [DATE]. In line with government requirements, I have put in place new health and safety measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. If you would like to find out more about these measures please call me on _____ [CELL PHONE NUMBER].

Your child does not have to return to my ECD programme – this is entirely your choice. While Coronavirus is still present in South Africa, there will always be some risk of infection where people have contact with each other. If your child returns to my ECD programme, I will do everything I can to keep them safe but I cannot take responsibility for any infection that occurs.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT PIECES OF INFORMATION:

Serious health conditions

You must keep your child at home if they have a serious underlying health condition (such as heart disease, chronic respiratory problems, a serious nervous system disorder, or severe immunodeficiency such as HIV/AIDS), unless a doctor provides written authorisation for your child to return to the programme. If you are not sure, contact your doctor for advice.

Screening

Every day, before leaving home, please make sure that you can answer 'NO' to all of these questions:

1. Do you think that your child has a high temperature or fever?
2. Does your child have a new cough?
3. Has your child shown signs of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
4. Has your child complained of a sore throat?
5. Has your child indicated that they cannot smell or taste things normally?
6. Do you or any member of your household have any of these symptoms?
7. In the past 14 days, have you or your child had close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus?

[PLEASE TURN OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION]

Drop-off and pick-up

When you drop off and pick up your child each day, please wear a face mask. You are asked to queue outside the entrance and keep at least 1.5 metre's distance from other parents and children. Please do not enter the venue without permission.

At drop-off, you will be met at the entrance and asked the same screening questions (see page 1) every day. Please be patient and answer the questions carefully. If your child arrives with another adult, please make sure that they can answer the questions.

Remember, if you answer 'YES' to any of the questions on page 1, you should all stay at home. You should also contact your nearest clinic or the Emergency Hotline on 0800 029 999 for advice.

Face masks

At the moment, the government is requiring children aged over 2 years old to wear a face mask at ECD programmes. Please ensure that your child comes to the programme each day wearing a face mask (it can be a cloth face mask). Please help your child to understand that they should try not to touch the face mask while they are wearing it.

Personal items

During this period, children should not bring any personal items with them to the programme. This includes bags and toys. If your child usually brings a packed meal/snack, they can still do this.

Talking to your child

Please talk to your child about the things that will be different when they return to the programme. For example, explain why people need to wear a face mask, that we will all need to try to keep a small distance from each other (but it's OK if we sometimes forget!), and that they will need to wash their hands as soon as they arrive. Explaining things to your child will help them to adjust to the changes.

Thank you for your co-operation. Together, we will get through this!

CUT THIS OUT, SIGN IT AND RETURN IT TO THE PROGRAMME

I, the under-signed, confirm that I have read and understood this letter. I will comply with the health and safety measures at the early childhood development programme. I understand that the attendance of my child at this programme is entirely voluntary and is at my sole risk. This means that I will not hold the ECD programme responsible for any Coronavirus infection that results from my child's attendance.

_____ [NAME OF PARENT/CAREGIVER]

_____ [NAME OF CHILD]

_____ [SIGNATURE] _____ [DATE]