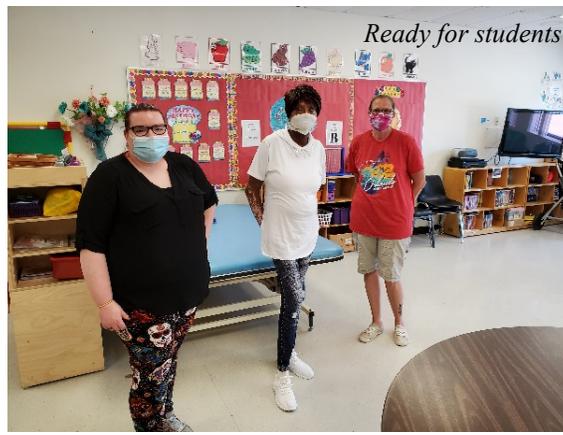
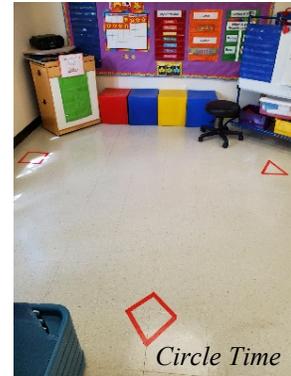




Social Distancing Dots



Ready for students



Circle Time



Ready for temperature checks



Cleaning & Disinfecting



New classroom layout

Thank you to our Seiff Educare Center staff for their help with this week's story.

AHRC Suffolk's Seiff Educare Center is scheduled to reopen on July 20th after months of being closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ease the natural stress and anxiety that many still feel due to the current health crisis, our Educare Center team is taking extra measures to ensure everyone returning to the school is safe. The first step they are taking is cleaning. The cleaning process begins in the early morning and continues throughout the day. AHRC's Maintenance Department arrives at 7:00am and completes a thorough cleaning checklist. Educare staff continues the cleaning during the day, including wiping down and disinfecting surfaces and high touch areas such as doorknobs and rails. Bohemia's Day Habilitation staff lends a hand and does a final cleaning at the end of the day.

In addition to the new cleaning regimen, social distancing measures are also being implemented both inside and outside the school. Outside, colorful dots placed six feet apart have been painted to make social distancing easier for students at drop-off and pick-up. Classrooms have also been reconfigured to allow for social distancing during the school day with desks placed 6 feet apart. Areas for individualized learning are blocked off for student's safety and each student will have separate supplies that are only for their use. Toys will be accessible only upon request by a student and will be sanitized after each use. Any personal toys will be kept with the student's supplies and only used by the student. Circle time will also follow social distancing protocols and guides have been placed on the floor to ensure students sit six feet apart.

Once school resumes, a new check-in process will also be implemented. Nurses will be present at the entrance each morning when students arrive and will screen each student as they come into school. This screening will include a temperature check with no-touch thermometers; additionally parents will be expected to review the arrival questionnaire daily, prior to sending their child to school, ensuring that their child has not been ill or exposed to COVID-19.

Therapy schedules will also be updated. There will be one therapy team per classroom, consisting of a physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech pathologist. Therapists will sign students out and meet each student at the door of their classroom to avoid entering the room and keep the amount of staff in the room to a minimum. Staff will wear masks at all times to minimize exposure to students and fellow staff, and will utilize hand sanitizer and frequent hand washing throughout the day.

"Our team at Educare has been working to meet all the guidelines the DOH and State Ed have given us so that we are able to open for in-person instruction; we're wearing facial coverings, spreading out, cleaning, and gathering supplies. Educare will be ready when our students arrive! We are happy to be able to provide the services which are so important to our students' health and educational success, with the support of the parents who see the value in what we do and have the confidence in us to do it safely. And for those who aren't ready to send their child back to school-that's ok, too! We'll continue to provide remote instruction through distance learning packets, Google Classroom lessons, teletherapy and weekly outreach." – Andrea Nickdow, Director, Children's Services