



**BROOKLYN
FRIENDS
SCHOOL**

April 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

Here we are back together in a Virtual Family Center. I want to first acknowledge that everyone is balancing a wide range of demands, responsibilities and emotions. How that looks and feels differs for each of us and it is important for us to pay attention to how we are feeling and what we can manage at any given time. This means that you and/or your child may not be ready or be able to join the class every day for Circle Time. You may wonder if your child is enjoying these gatherings or see they do not want to engage in an entire session. We understand and respect that you will make the best choices for your children and you.

This is the second week of Virtual Family Center Phase-in. The teachers, Naomi and I are meeting regularly to plan together as we consider what is working for our children, with the same considerations we bring to all aspects of the program. But there is a big difference when all of it exists in a virtual world on screens. This is why we are proceeding slowly as we carefully consider and design what will appropriately meet the needs of our children.

For this short week ahead, Synchronous Circle Times will continue every morning 9:30 to 10:00am. In addition, we will start to share videos from the classroom and specialist teachers (Nancy for Music, Tony for Sings, Mary for Dance). The videos will provide connections to the teachers and shared activities that you can use at the times of day that work best considering your different family schedules. And they can be played many times over. Children learn by reading/hearing stories, singing songs, moving to dances, and playing with a toy over and over. It may look the same, but that is not how it is seen by the children.

In weeks ahead you can look forward to synchronous gatherings of half groups, small groups in addition to the whole class meetings. The Extended Day children will meet as a group. We will schedule Parent Coffee Hours and will continue to update you as new ideas and plans are included in the schedule.

We appreciate your support as we navigate these challenging times together, keeping our connections within the Family Center community active in a virtual way..

Please continue to share your thoughts, observations and questions. Email me at any time if I can be of support as new challenges or questions arise.

I miss you all. Take care and well.

In Friendship and Gratitude,
Sara