



NIA HOUSE'S REOPENING GUIDE

Where do we find information & guidance on:

- Reopening
- Best practices
- Health and hygiene
- General COVID-related info?

What we share here are all ideas-
just ideas!

NIA HOUSE AIMS TO:

- Reopen!
- Maintain safety- physical and socioemotional
- Prioritizing children's developmental needs
- Cleaning/ Disinfecting (we already do!)
- Follow health and safety guidance as it evolves
- Communicate as a cohesive community (parents/ staff/ children)
- Be transparent
- Collaboration with community
- Offer children stability through routines
- Continue to foster trust in the NH community
- Uphold NH's mission in the midst of the pandemic climate

Decision-making criteria:

- Children and staff safety
- Expert health and safety guidance
- Children's developmental needs
- Limitations of the physical site & in staffing (lunch breaks and such)
- Equitable practices (understanding that we are all impacted differently)
- Acknowledging the vulnerabilities of our greater community (elders and very young)

GUIDANCE

VS.

REGULATION

In an ever-changing/constantly evolving climate.

EXPERT SOURCES offering guidance and regulations:

CDC/ State of CA Dept of Health

Alameda/ COB Depts of Health

**Department of Social Services /
Licensing**

First 5/ Bananas

AMS

Colleagues from other programs



More sources (and most importantly):

The Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team:

Alameda County Early Care and Education Program

Alameda County Public Health Department

Alameda County Office of Education

Alameda County Social Services Agency

BANANAS

Community Child Care Council (4Cs) Of Alameda County First 5 Alameda County

Hively



We love our
school's existing
programming...

And we want it to continue. We must
seek practices to serve **ALL OF OUR
NEEDS.**

It will need to
temporarily change
during pandemic
times...

We are navigating totally new
territory. NH teachers are using
current and changing guidance to
create similar, safe and comfortable
programming.

We want to share openly and clearly with the community:

We are designing our “new best practices” based on guidance and experience. Our practices may be different than other programs best practices. Each program is unique!

Some of our new practices will function optimally, and some will not.

Per usual, we design, implement, refine over time, evaluate, then if a practice still doesn't serve the community as a whole, we reevaluate and implement something new..



As we share some IDEAS on shifting practices, we need **community patience, understanding and flexibility**- from staff, children and parents.

We also want there to be answers to ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS, but need to acknowledge that many answers need to be discovered- they don't yet exist. NH staff are working to figure out answers to problems we CAN solve, but guidance is constantly shifting.

confidence & flexibility

One thing NH teachers have discovered and do know: **when we act with confidence and trust** (between teachers, parents and in our relationships), **the children exhibit greater ease and confidence themselves.**

They trust their teachers, parents and systems of support. We'll make mistakes, and we'll pivot- hence flexibility.



what might be different?

(remember - just ideas)

group sizes & hours of care:

- **8 hours** (is our big aim, though **we are still evaluating** our ability to offer)
- Minimum of 2 days per week per child with the **aim of 5 days per week**
- **Group size guidance is 10-12**, though some of our spaces can offer safe care and supervision to a slightly larger greater group sizes (perhaps closer to 15)
- **Group of children will be divided** in each class and specific teachers will work solely with each group
- Groups of children cannot/ will not mix on the yard; **each group will have their own yard time**
- **No additional families will be brought into the program**- we will do our best to honor existing contracts for siblings

evaluating school readiness on a daily basis

- Fevers of any kind
- Coughs
- Colds
- Any symptoms of illness...
- 72 hours post fever return to school with 0 symptoms/ 10 days post symptoms without COVID test

arrivals and departures

- Specific 20 minute drop off windows for each class/ small group
- Specific 20 minute pick up windows for each class/ small group
- Teachers opening and closing some of our gates onsite, rather than parents
- All children will be dropped off to same adult/teacher each day
- Locations TBD
- Minimize adults onsite / 1 adult per family
- Virtual meetings and phone calls

other changes:

- daily programming: rotating work periods / increased outside time
- meals- distancing
- naps- 6ft away
- siblings sharing spaces (if appropriate)
- who knows what else??



What's next?

NH surveys community interest (though, again, we are still figuring out the extent of services we can provide under strict health guidance):

- Upon reopening, will you be sending your child?
- Are you interested in starting your child in July, September, January?



Tuition?

- Full fee paying families/ higher income earning families are asked to contribute as generously as possible with any contribution over \$400 marked as tax deductible contribution.
- Families receiving financial aid who continue to contribute over \$400 are also making tax deductible contributions (and NH is incredibly grateful for your support too).
- Our current budget for 2020-21 includes no tuition increase or decrease for our typical full day programming (which we hope to offer)



Let's work together with patience, flexibility, warmth and constructive conversation.

Let's make it through this uncertain time and support our community and ourselves.

We will continue to share important community updates and information as soon as the plan is refined.

RESOURCES FOR NIA HOUSE'S RE-OPENING

ALAMEDA CO EMERGENCY CHILDCARE RESPONSE TEAM

- Gathers resources from all applicable regulatory and guidance agencies
- Holds meetings with stakeholders to share information and summarize key points
- Offers support to care providers, families, children
- Guides “best practices” implementation
- Reviews progress and supports assessments of plans

- Shares technical information on disease, spread, control, prevention and mitigation
- Offers guidance on phased reopening (1-4) for coronavirus
- Shares data on research related to coronavirus

CA/ ALAMEDA/ COB HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

- Regulations and policy- stay at home order and face coverings
- Guidance for ECE- group sizes/ cleaning/ disinfecting/ staffing
- Issues City-wide stay at home orders
- Describes the terms- regulation
- Requires face coverings for adults out of the house through May 31
- Offers guidance on disinfecting, cleaning, social distancing, operating ECE centers (similar to Alameda County)

Bananas

- Gathers information
- Education and training for staff and parents
- Resource and referral agency

Department of Social Services/CA Licensing

- Regulations and policy
- Some guidance- they reference back to CDC/ ACDH

AMS/AMI

- Material development- free online printable card materials
- Parent and teacher webinars (child development/ behavioral needs/ Montessori in the home...)
- Administrative support
- Templates for parents and teachers
- Connections with colleagues from other schools/ programs