The Children’s Center at Caltech
WELCOMING FAMILIES BACK
The Children’s Center at Caltech decided to close its doors on March 17, 2020 to keep in line with COVID-19 orders from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

We are committed to protecting the health and safety of the entire CCC Community and we believe that by acting immediately, we contributed to the critical national effort to slow the growth of new cases in the larger community and beyond.

During closure, we provided regular updates to families regarding resources, staff updates, and reopening possibilities. We alleviated financial burden from our families by choosing to refund tuition fees from March and to not charge tuition during the duration of our closure.
Our staff continued to work from home for 8 and a half weeks while receiving full salary and benefits.

We addressed their concerns and needs by sending out a review of their individual home situations and thoughts about returning to work.
Each class stayed connected with their children through weekly Zoom meetings, music time with Dayita, and video recordings of various age-appropriate activities.

A weekly home curriculum was also provided for families related to their concepts.

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<th>Families</th>
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### STEM Activities
- Journal items that are smaller and larger than you are. Take a picture with one smaller item and one larger item with you in the middle. For small, medium, and large.

### Mathematics
- Cooking activity - make pancakes
- Use of measuring cups, following a recipe, making various size pancakes. One cup of better, two cups of batter, three cups of batter. How big will it be?

### Language & Literacy
- Pancake for breakfast! Details: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YN4c_B0KC6d
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears, by Jan Brett
- What happens to Goldilocks after she runs away from the Three Bears house? Can you share with us what you think? What will her family say to her? Will she tell them what she did? What will happen to her next? What would you say to her?

### Art & Creativity
- Continuous sidewalk chalk art - dip chalk in water before starting to paint
- Painting with watercolors

### Practical Life
- Sort your own socks, bottoms (pants/long, shorts/short), shirts (long sleeve, short sleeve, no sleeve)
- Wash your toys outside. (You can use a bin, bucket etc. add water and give children toys that can be washed)
- Homemade water table

### Social Emotional
- Playdate on Wednesday from 10-12pm
- Talk about things you will be able to do when you get bigger, what are some things that you couldn’t do before?
The teachers had the challenge of providing STEM-based activities using common things families would have at home.

Here we see two engineering projects, a boat and a fort.

A mathematic activity of measuring how many feet long our parents are.

A science activity combining measurement, solids and liquids, and chemical reactions
These activities were designed for every class, every age, and every personality.
We addressed family needs by sending out an inquiry of essentials workers and their child care needs.

We provided a presentation detailing all the new expectations and procedures for our reopening in accordance with guidelines and requirements set forth by licensing, local and state public health authorities, and the CDC.

A webinar hosted by Susan was held to answer any questions and concerns families may have. The webinar had over 100 of our families attend.

Families who were not sure about returning felt more comfortable once they heard from us on our webinar.
AFTER 8 WEEKS OF QUARANTINE, ON MAY 18TH, WE WELCOMED OUR STAFF BACK TO THE CENTER.
WE DISTRIBUTED MASKS, FACE SHIELDS, AND SMOCKS AND PROVIDED LUNCH FOR EVERYONE.
This gave them two weeks, without children, to get ready and prepare their classrooms.
It took a village. Here we see a parent, the Caltech Grounds crew, and Susan.
Welcome Back Penguins

Remember to...
* Wash your hands for 20 seconds
* Stay 6 feet apart
Teachers have found creative ways to create distance.
Distance—The amount of space between two places.

Social Distancing—Maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart.
The activities are the same, but now the space communicates to the children that they can have their own space to play in.
We have prepared for each child to have their own individual art supplies to limit cross contamination, but not to limit their creativity.
Our music teacher, Dayita, prepared individual music bags that are age appropriate for each child.

Music instruction will be conducted virtually by projecting familiar favorites in each classroom.
Sewing has long been a tradition in the preschool classrooms. Since projects can take time, children can work on their creation and set them aside in their personalized bags until they are ready to continue at a later time.
Clay is a wonderful stress-reliever. The engineering design process can be seen in each individual sculpture.

Each creation can be imagined, planned, created, and improved.
It wouldn’t be the CCC without science.
Our outdoor Science Lab is conducive to good health by providing fresh air.
Literacy isn’t limited to inside.

Here we can see our outdoor environment.
Our curriculum inside is also reflected outside.
Our large yards will be a welcome sight to children who have spent many hours, days, and weeks in their homes.
Some things will feel and look different.

And some things will look and feel the same.

We've missed you and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Fondly,

Susan,
the staff
and teachers