

August 26, 2020

To our Families,

Welcome Back to a school year like no other! Communication is always important and, in these times, even more so. The following are a few updates regarding Watson Institute Education Center Sewickley and South Programs.

We held a "Town Hall" with Ed. Center parents last Monday, August 14. The PowerPoint is available on our main Watson webpage. Parents were able to ask questions via the chat room. These were answered and embedded these into the end of the PP for the final version.

This past Friday, a sample schedule was shared with all our families and is on the Watson website. Each student will have an individual schedule for each week. All lessons will be live, recorded and available to parents in the event they could not attend the live lesson. The majority of the live sessions are 1:1 with the teachers, therapists and IAs, a few group live sessions will also be provided. IEP goals will be addressed, and data collected.

Here are 3 other updates wanted to share and have also shared with districts.

1. We will be offering ***in-person*** PT services for any students who have direct minutes, not consult, in their current IEP. **Before this can occur, a script that states PT is needed for the 2020-2021 SY MUST be in hand please!** This can be faxed to the respective school program. By law, treatment cannot occur without this. PTs will be scheduling 1:1 in person sessions with students. This will include any new students in need of a PT evaluation.

PT was selected to be in- person, as it is almost impossible to provide virtually due to the hands-on nature of the treatment.

- PTs will offer a direct session for up to 60 minutes 1-2 times/month depending on the PT minutes as per the student's current IEP.
- Parents are asked to transport their child and stay on the property during these sessions. A staff member will go to the parent's vehicle to transition the student into the building.
- At the end of each session, the therapists will ask the parents for any questions, concerns and can demonstrate any positioning.
- All equipment will be wiped down and sanitized between students.
- Please bring any diapers/pulls ups, and wipes in the event these are required
- There will be designated area within each building for this treatment to occur, as well as a schedule for families, specific to the child/student.
- The therapist will post details from this session on the student's webpage.

If you, as a parent, do not want or cannot attend an in-person PT session, PT minutes will be available in live video consultation sessions.

2. Once we move to our blended schedule with half the students attending M/T and the other half attending TH/F (W is all remote and for deep cleaning), the students will follow the attached schedule for transportation. We divided the districts on these days in order to allow districts and transportation companies to have a clear schedule. WISCA South and Education Center South are attempting to match. This has also been shared with our districts, so they can plan transportation accordingly.
3. The final item is that of tracking attendance for the students. The following are the requirements for a student to be considered in attendance.
 - a. Parent must “sign-in” to a Microsoft Forms document, and answer 3 simple questions. This will be time stamped. There will be a link to the attendance form on each student’s schedule.
 - b. Student must attend 2-30 minute live sessions each day OR
Student must attend 1-30 minute live session AND 1 recorded session, has to be the same day, but can be after school hours.
Any live sessions that student attends will not be recorded

If these requirements are not met, the student will be marked absent. If there are situations that prevent any of the above, such as lack of internet service, please let your child’s teacher know.

We hope this is helpful and appreciate your continued support.

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