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Dear ANDRUS Early Learning Center Families:

All of us here at Andrus hope that you are well during these unprecedented times. It is with great sadness that we write this letter, but as you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the childcare and early learning fields, and the educational system as a whole, in ways that we could not have imagined even seven months ago. Therefore, due to the repercussions of COVID-19, Andrus is suspending its operations at the ANDRUS Early Learning Center (AELC), effective January 1st, 2021, until further notice. We will remain open during the Christmas break, but will be closed on December 24th and 25th.

We did not make this decision lightly and understand and appreciate that we are a resource for you and your child, having provided high-quality early learning in the Tuckahoe community for more than fifty years. However, the fallout from COVID-19 is pervasive and unrelenting. Time magazine, in an article in its September 8th edition, included a survey conducted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), in which it outlined the devastating national impact of COVID-19 on the childcare industry. The article cited that 86% of childcare providers are serving fewer children today as compared to the pre-COVID-19 environment, and 70% of providers are incurring considerable new operating costs. Unfortunately, these statistics are right in line with our experiences here at AELC.

Further, as a result of COVID-19, school districts are changing their curriculum models by either providing 100% remote learning or creating a hybrid model that allows only a limited amount of in-person instruction. Additionally, many businesses have shifted to working remotely to ensure the safety of its employees. This combination of school districts operating remotely, more parents working from home, and the uncertainty of when a vaccine will be found has led to a dramatic decrease in the demand for childcare, while simultaneously, the costs to operate in the COVID-19 environment have significantly increased.

Please know that AELC administrators will assist you during the transition process by being available to answer your questions and provide general support, providing a list of alternative childcare options in the area, and providing a link to the Child Care Council of Westchester.

Thank you for trusting us to care for your most valued treasures, allowing us to nurture your children and to promote their overall healthy development. We will miss you!

Sincerely,

Corine E. Lurry-Mabin

Vice President and Chief Program Officer