

# 5 STEPS TO AVOID WHEN CREATING A HOME LEARNING POD



# Inside This Advisory Guide You'll Discover...



- The Right Questions To Consider
- How to Choose the Right Location
- What Most Parents Forget About
- The Importance of Socialization





# 5 STEPS TO AVOID WHEN CREATING A HOME LEARNING POD

## **MISTAKE #1**

**Choosing the right environment & having a back-up plan.**

Outdoor learning can be distracting for children - Heat, insects, wind, and noises are just some of the issues. Bringing people inside your home during a pandemic is a safety risk. Make sure to have stringent, scheduled cleaning procedures, a designated learning area, strong Wi-Fi, bright lights, appropriate seating, good ventilation, etc...

Also, don't forget to consider if you are teaching outside, what will you do about inclement weather? What are your contingencies if someone gets sick? Do you have a back-up instructor? What happens if someone pulls out of your pod?

## **MISTAKE #2**

**Having safety precautions in place, liability waivers & insurance.**

Learning pods only limit your risk of exposure if everyone in the group, including the instructor, agrees to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during school hours and at home. What happens if someone comes down with COVID? Or is injured on your property? Or a student is struggling with online learning? Check your local school's handbook for things you may not have previously thought about. Consider checking your insurance to make sure you are covered for any liability that may occur, and definitely have a lawyer draft a waiver for all families to sign and agree to.

## **MISTAKE #3**

**Is there a contract agreement for all families involved?**

Every member of the pod should agree to all the rules and regulations of the pod. If students pull out, how does the instructor get paid? Who is responsible for incidentals - supplies, cleaning, snacks/lunch, additional curriculum, and so on? Everyone should be very clear and sign the agreement. Check the credentials and background of your instructor(s). Make sure they do not fall under employee status under the New Jersey law. There are strict guidelines regarding independent contractor status.

## **MISTAKE #4**

**Having systems, rules & procedures in place.**

What are your safety procedures, and are they clearly laid out and systemized so every day they are followed exactly? What will you do with behavioral issues? What happens if a parent breaks a rule? There is so much to think about here. We recommend looking at a school handbook for reference; you may see something there you haven't really thought about before. Lay the groundwork from the start to protect yourself.

## **MISTAKE #5**

**Open Communication**

Communication needs to be clear, consistent, and predictable. Will you have a weekly pod newsletter or run a Facebook group or chat for pod families? Who is in charge of what? Make sure the paths of communication are clear and defined. You do not want to be woken up at night with texts: "When are you available to talk?"

# *Why You Should Choose LaChaney's to Help with Remote Learning*

LaChaney's Enrichment Program is not a Pre-school, Daycare, Elementary School, or a Before/Aftercare program. We are an Enrichment Arts Program that incorporates dance, flexibility, fitness, music, art, and drama with educational learning for kids ages 2 through 10. Our staff will support remote learning and assist with online technology.

Our Preschool Arts Enrichment program will allow your child the opportunity to explore new beginnings through movement, magic and fun, while learning the alphabet, numbers, letters and creating stories during story time. Your child will participate in dance, fitness, and flexibility, while enjoying music, art, and drama lessons. Our Preschool Arts Enrichment Program is a fun and active fine arts program that allows children to develop social skills and talents at a young age. Students will meet five days a week ready to fill their minds and bodies with imagination and creativity. Our goal is to help children realize their fullest potential, all while partnering with the parents to maintain a healthy and safe environment.

Our Elementary aged students remain enrolled in school and choose the option of remote learning, while incorporating art enrichment into their daily schedule. These students will adhere to the guidelines of their school's Distant Learning Plan. Our schedule is designed to allow students to follow a structured flow of their work as well as receive individual or small group tutoring for core skills. Each student will provide their own device and headset for Distant Learning, while we will supply charging stations, access to Wi-Fi and an individual desk to maintain social distancing. Students will have the time and space to dive deep into the subjects they're studying in a safe atmosphere. Daily enrichment activities such as dance, fitness, music and art will be incorporated throughout the week to encourage structure and the development of time management skills.

Our program is designed to provide a consistent school-like environment and will run 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. No drop-ins allowed, daily or weekly rates are not accepted. For the safety of our students, and to maintain small groups, the same students will stay together for the entire term. All activities will be held at LaChaney's Dance & Music Academy, students will not leave the property. Outdoor activities will be done in our designated play area.



## **SAFETY & HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**

There will be written guidelines of the commitments that parents need to make about social distancing. This will include the following: daily temperature checks, wearing mask at all times, disclosure of illnesses in the household, and traveling. Each family will assess their COVID risk profiles and create a social pact to maintain transparency among the group on an ongoing basis. LaChaney's is a corporation and fully licensed and insured to work with children under a performing arts contract. We have surveillance cameras in each room to ensure safety protocols are being followed. All employees are background checked and highly trained. And our facility is thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis.



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