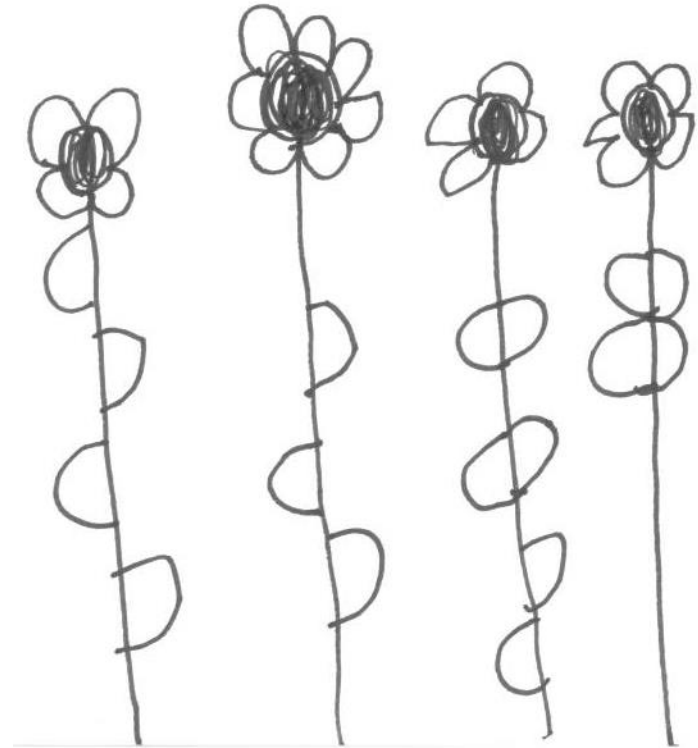


Staying healthy at

HP Community
Early Learning Center



We're going back to school! I'm excited to see my teachers, classroom and friends. At school, there are some things that will be new and different.



When we arrive at school, we will park in the parking lot like before. We might see grass beginning to grow around the school and flowers by the door! We stay in our car until a grown up tells us it's our turn to come in.

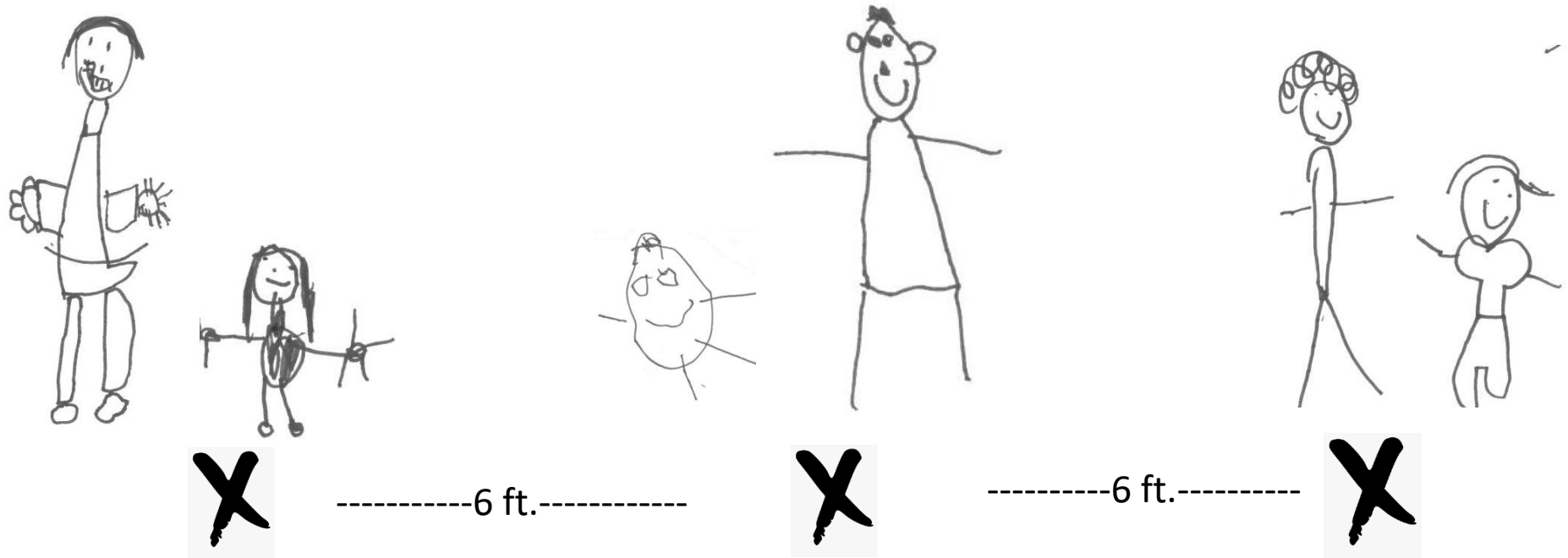
Wearing masks will be a new thing. My family will wear masks. My teachers will wear masks. I will wear a mask too. We all will wear masks to keep everyone at school safe and healthy.



When it's our turn, we take off the shoes I am wearing at the door and put on my school shoes. The home shoes I was wearing go on the cart. Then we put a little hand sanitizer on our hands and I put my mask on. This helps keep everyone healthy.



We might have to wait a little bit before we go inside.
That's okay. We can play games or sing songs while we wait.



It's important we don't stand too close when we're together so we don't share germs. When it's our turn, I say goodbye to my family and a grown up takes me to my classroom.

Just like my family, my teachers are wearing masks. I can see their eyes and hear their voice.



The teachers look a little different with their masks on. They have a picture of themselves on their shirt to remind me what they usually look like.



When I enter the classroom, the first thing I do is wash my hands. I make lots of bubbles for 20 seconds to make sure I wash all the germs away. Now my hands are squeaky clean!

We will have to wash our hands throughout the day like we did before...



Before and after we eat,
After we go to the
bathroom,
After we blow our noses,
After we go outside.

We will also have other special handwashing times.
Sometimes we will use hand sanitizer.

I might notice that the classroom looks different. It's that way for now to keep everyone as healthy as possible.



I won't bring a backpack to school, just a ziplock bag of clothes labelled with my name and a water bottle with my name on it.



I won't bring any toys from home. My teachers have so many for me to play with!
I won't need to bring a blanket because my teachers will have a nice cozy one waiting for me!

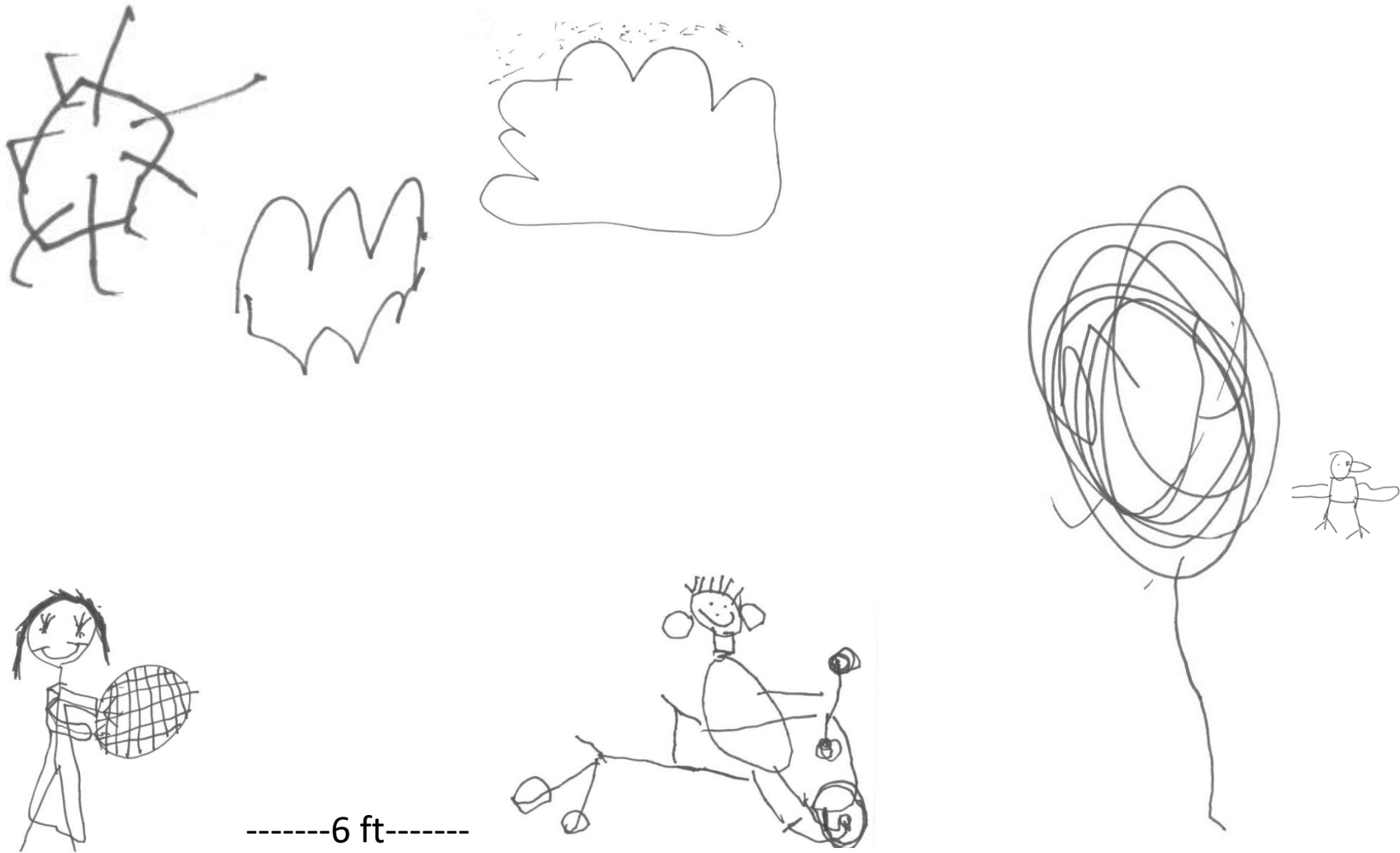


After washing, I can play. There is a play basket and a mat just for me! The basket already has some fun things in it. My teacher helps me choose some of my favorite toys to add to it.

The teachers help my friends and me wear our masks inside. They also remind us not to stand too close together so we don't spread germs to each other. It's good for me to keep my mask on and make space between me and my friends.



In order to keep everyone healthy, we stay in our own classroom and go outside to play.



I don't have to wear my mask outside and I need to give my friends plenty of room to play.

At school, hugging and touching our friends might spread germs. We can do other things to show how much we like our friends and teachers.



Have you ever tried throwing a hug? It's like throwing a kiss but first you squeeze yourself very tightly. Then you throw your arms out and the hug invisibly flies through the air until the person you like catches it!

My class has snack and lunch picnic-style. I have my own special place to sit.



And at naptime I have my own space too!

Staying in our classroom might make us miss our friends and other teachers in different classrooms. We can still wave at them from the windows and doors when we see them.



I notice that my classroom and my day is different. Sometimes changes and new things can bring up lots of different feelings.



I might even have lots of different feelings at the same time. It's OK to feel whatever I am feeling.

I can talk to my family, teachers and friends about my feelings, the new and different things, and any questions I have!





When it is time to go home, I gather my belongings. A grown up walks with me down the hallway to see my family. I am so excited to tell them about my day! But I don't forget to take off my school shoes, put them on the cart, and put my home shoes back on. That way I'm ready for the next time I come to school!

*For questions or concerns, please call the
school office at 847-432-3301.*

With many thanks...

The Boulder Journey School in Boulder, Colorado, is gratefully acknowledged as the model and inspiration for this social story. It was adapted to suit our context by Pam Carlson, Program Director, at HP Community Early Learning Center in Highland Park, Illinois.

May, 2020