

March 19, 2020 7:00pm

Greetings from St. Olaf Childcare Center!

I'm here to give you an update on the current events happening at our childcare center. We are still OPEN! Well sort of. When the press release was issued from Orange Counties County Health Officer on March 17<sup>th</sup>, it stated that childcare centers could only care for children of parents that hold essential jobs. We have 17 children that fall under this category that the parents still want care for. We have 1 infant room open and 1 preschool room open. This order is in effect until midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup>. I must tell you that we feel like we are doing an important part in keeping critical businesses operating in this unprecedented crisis. Six of our teachers are not working through March 31<sup>st</sup> and the rest have taken cuts in hours. Despite this, everyone is upbeat and continues to care for each other, children and parents like family. If I don't go into empty rooms, it's like business as usual. I still see and hear children laughing and playing. They are all making new friends since we've combined them into two classrooms. Tonight, as one little girl, Justeen, was leaving, she yelled "bye bye" to me. Then she yelled out as she walked with her mom to the parking lot, "You're my best friend." It doesn't get better than that. (She is the first picture on the top left.) If we are allowed, we will still be here providing Loving Christian Care to everyone. God bless you and stay safe!

