

Illness Policy

Our illness policy is designed to effectively care for sick children and prevent the spread of contagious diseases to other children and our staff. This policy offers guidance for families on when to keep your child at home and when it is safe for them to return to the center.

A good base line to consider: Is my child too ill to enjoy childcare/preschool activities?

Fevers

Any child with a fever over 100 degrees should stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. If a child develops a fever above 100 degrees while at our center, they will be sent home. We always follow the manufacture's directions on reading our thermometers.



Vomiting

Stomach viruses can spread rapidly among young children. If a child vomits during the day, we will notify the parent or guardian immediately. Children can vomit for many reasons, not necessarily a contagious illness. Is the child upset, did the child have a gas bubble or eat something that didn't agree with them? After 2 incidents of vomiting, or vomiting with another symptom, the child must go home.



Diarrhea

Like vomiting, there are many reasons a child may have diarrhea. Perhaps they were introduced to a new fruit or ate a food that upset their stomach. If child has two or more watery bowel movements or they have one episode of diarrhea with another symptom, such as fever or lethargy, they will be sent home for observations.



Conjunctivitis



If our staff notice redness, discharge or tearing in a child's eye, parents will immediately be asked to pick up their child. The child may not return until they are cleared by a doctor. Bacterial & viral pink eye is highly contagious and the child must remain home until the symptoms clear up. Allergic conjunctivitis is not contagious and the child may return to school.

Lice



We ask that parents monitor their child's hair and notify our center if they suspect lice or nits. If lice are found we will notify parents and the child will not be able to return to care until all the lice and nits are eliminated. Treatment will need to be verified to return. We recommend consulting your child's pediatrician for safe and effective treatment of lice.

Common Cold



We know the cold and allergy season is difficult for children and families. Our goal is to keep everyone in our learning community as healthy as possible. If your child is sick with a severe cough, excessive or green nasal discharge please keep them home until they are feeling better. If your child shows signs of illness, we will ask them to go home until their symptoms are resolved or they are cleared by a physician.

Cough

Children with a persistent hacking or congestive cough should rest at home. If a child in our care develops a cough, you will have to pick them up. Coughs can result from allergies or may linger after an illness has largely resolved. Please provide a doctor's note if a cough or runny nose is caused by a communicable disease or allergies. Children may return to care with a doctor's note or when they are symptom free.



Medication Administration



Medication administration requires a strict policy to ensure medications are properly stored and administered. All medication must be brought in their original packaging, labeled with the child's full name and include the physician's instructions. Parents must also sign a consent form before any medication can be administered. Expired medications cannot be given and will be returned to the family upon expiration. Diaper cream and sunscreen are considered medications. We cannot give medications to alleviate cold symptoms or reduce fevers to keep a child in care.

Sick Child Pick Up & When to Return to School

If a child is sick, we want them to feel better as quickly as possible. Sometimes they just need rest; sometimes they need to see a doctor. In order to keep our center as healthy as possible, ill children must be sent home. If your child shows signs of illness, such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, a severe cough or green nasal discharge they will be separated from other children and you will be asked to pick them up. We will notify the listed parent or guardian for immediate pick up. We know it is difficult to leave work when your child is sick, but the safety and well being of our learning community is our top priority. Children who are sent home for illness may return once they are symptom free for 24 hours or with a doctor's note indicating they can return. Please let us know if your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness. We post these illnesses in the lobby and outside the classroom of the child who is ill so that everyone can be on the look out for symptoms in other children.

