

## Illness, Exclusion, Re-admittance Policy

### Illness

Children in group care will become ill from time to time. The Center strives to keep infection controlled by using good sanitizing procedures and by following a strict illness policy. Parent cooperation is vital in making these efforts successful.

Children will be briefly inspected each day upon arrival. Any child whose physical condition appears such that it could affect the health of the other children in the Center will not be permitted to stay. The following symptoms or conditions warrant **immediate exclusion** from the classroom environment and the child may not return to the Center until the child has been symptom-free for a full 24 hours:

1. A fever of 100 degrees or higher under the arm or with the thermal scanner;
2. Loose stools, 3 or more events;
3. Vomiting, 2 or more episodes;
4. Pink Eye;
5. Ringworm;
6. Impetigo;
7. Rash/Hives (unexplained);
8. Abnormal behaviors, such as irritability, continuous crying, anything requiring more attention than a teacher is able to provide without neglecting or endangering the other children in the class;
9. Scabies or Head Lice;
10. Thrush (in the case of infants); or
11. Other contagious/communicable illness.

In some cases the symptoms dissipate quickly and the child is able to return to school the next day. Other illnesses require medical attention and the onset of treatment before the child can return. Listed below are common ailments and the conditions under which the child can be readmitted to the program. We reserve the right to request a physician's note (legible, on prescription pad or official stationary) before allowing a child to remain in and/or return to school and reserve the right to send a child home regardless of a physician's recommendation, at the Center's discretion.

Fever- Children with a temperature of 100 degrees or more are sent home immediately. Fever usually indicates the presence of a contagious virus. The child, therefore, has to be fever free for 24 hours before returning. We also ask that the child's temperature be taken in the afternoon, and in the absence of any fever-reducing drugs.

Vomiting- Children may return the next day if resolved and in the absence of any other symptoms. The child will be sent back home if the condition reoccurs.

Diarrhea- Children may return the next day if resolved and in the absence of any other symptoms. The child will be sent back home if the condition re-occurs.

Pink Eye- Discolored eye, with a yellow or white discharge must be on medication for 24 hours before returning.

Strep Throat- The child must be on antibiotics and fever free for 24 hours before returning.

Shigellosis- The Health Department must clear the sick child to return.

Rotavirus- The child may return when the symptoms are gone.

Fifth Disease- The child need not be excluded unless other symptoms are present.

Coxsackie- The child need not be excluded unless other symptoms are present.

Impetigo- The child may return 24 hours after treatment begins.

If contacted by the Center to pick up a sick child, parents are responsible for doing so promptly. The Center does not have the resources to care for a sick child and cannot expose other children to potential contagions. In case of an emergency, the Center will attempt to reach (in the following order): parent(s), emergency contact listed on the child's emergency card, physician, and hospital. If either parent(s) or the emergency contact cannot be contacted, we will secure any necessary medical treatment or care that may be warranted by circumstances. **Be sure to keep cell phones turned on and/or check voice mail, and emails frequently in case we need to reach you.**

The Center has a medical consultant on call. The name and phone number are located in the Administration's office.