



## **SICK CHILD POLICY**

The following illness policies will be strictly enforced, for the health, well-being, and safety of all concerned.

- Under no circumstances may a parent bring a sick child to school, if the child shows any signs of illness, or is unable to participate in the normal routine and regular school program.
- Sick children will expose all children and staff members who they come in contact with. These people can in turn expose the other children.
- Sick children want care from their parents in the comfort of their own homes. If other children become ill due to exposure to your sick child, either because he/she was returned to school before full recovery or because he/she took was administrated fever medicine to help symptoms or because he/she was not picked up promptly upon notice of becoming ill, other parents will be unnecessarily inconvenienced. Because this is disruptive to other children and their families, your cooperation on this issue is extremely important.
- Every effort is taken to reduce the spread of illness by encouraging hand washing and other sanitary practices.
- Each morning, children will be visually screened, by looking at hair, clean clothes, including socks, runny nose (even if the discharge is clear), cough and ask parent or guardian if the child has taken any fever reducer medicine within the last 24 hours. Their temperature will be taken when they arrive in the morning and throughout the day. If anyone has a temperature of 100.4°F/38°C or higher they must be excluded from the facility
- If the child has known allergies, we will need the clearance from the doctor to let the child participating in the school.
- In the event a child becomes ill and needs to be picked up, the parent(s) will be called and are expected to come pick the child up within thirty minutes (30 minutes). If the parent(s) cannot be reached, or have not arrived within a half an hour, the emergency contact person will be called and asked to come pick the child up.
- When a child does become unwell, the child will be made feels as comfortable as possible until the parent/guardian arrives to collect the child.
  - Staff will maintain a routine of good hand washing and support children to do the same.
  - Staff will establish a routine of cleanliness and good hygiene practice in all areas.
  - Parents/guardians will provide a change of clothes for the event of an accident.
  - The ill child will be cared for in a sensitive and professional manner.

- Staff will reassure and explain to the group any fear or concern they may have about the ill child. For the benefit of our staff and other children in our care, a sick child will not be permitted to return to school for 48 hours after condition has returned to normal and must have doctor's clearance.

- The child may return 48-72 hours (depending upon the illness) after they have received the first dose of an antibiotic. If a child receives an antibiotic for an ear infection, he/she may return to school immediately if he/ she has been free of other symptoms mentioned for at least 48 hours.
- If you are not sure about whether to bring your child to school, please call your doctor to discuss it.
- Allergy related symptoms, and non-communicable illnesses do not require exclusion, but you must have a note from your doctor.

**YOUR CHILD MUST STAY AT HOME IF HE/SHE PRESENTS THESE CONDITIONS:**

- **Fever:** Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100°F or higher taken under the arm, 101°F taken orally. A child needs to be fever free for a minimum of 48 hours before returning to school, that means the child is fever free without the aid of Tylenol®, or any other fever reducing substance.
- Undiagnosed skin rash and rash with fever and or behavior change.
- Earache, it is sometimes related to an ear infection. If the child has been free of symptoms, he/she may return to school, after 48 hours of starting on antibiotics.
- Diarrhea: runny, watery, bloody stools, or 2 or looser stools within last 4 hours.
- Vomiting: 2 or more times in a 24-hour period. Note: please do not bring your child if they have vomited the night before.
- Breathing trouble, sore throat, continuous coughing, swollen glands, loss of voice, hacking.
- Heavy nose discharge, draining eyes or ears.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye), the child may return to school after 48 of starting on antibiotics. If it is a viral conjunctivitis please bring a doctor's release/report before returning to school.
- Frequent scratching of body or scalp, lice, rash, or any other spots that resemble childhood diseases, including ringworm.
- Child is irritable, unusually tired, continuously crying, or requires more attention than we can provide without hurting the health, safety, or well-being of the other children in our school.

If you are not sure whether it is okay to bring your child, please call ahead to ask us. We may require a doctor's decision as to whether the child is contagious.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

I understand and agree to follow the terms of the sick child policy.

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Parent signature Date Program

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Director signature Date

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