



Friday January 9, 2004

Dear Parents:

Since the beginning of winter, and with the bad flu season, we have had numerous cases of illnesses in the center. To help parents determine if their child/children should attend school, we have developed an addendum to our health care policy. (See parent's handbook) This will help ensure a more healthy and happy environment for all. ***Since we do not provide care for sick children, parents should plan for alternative childcare.***

If a staff member observes any of the following symptoms, he or she will report to the Director who will help determine if the child needs to be sent home.

1. Fever over 100° and one of the below symptoms.
2. Any complaint or indication of abdominal pain accompanied by indication of nausea, repetitious vomiting (2 times) or uncontrolled diarrhea.
  - Not contained in diaper
  - Child not able to make it to the bathroom(Both situations create a greater risk of contamination and disease spread)
3. Undiagnosed rash, especially when combined with fever or other symptoms
4. Unusual fatigue, listlessness or irritability.
5. Severe coughing or runny nose with non-clear drainage.
6. Indications of ear pain/ ear ache with fever.
7. Reddened eyes accompanied by yellow, white crusty drainage. (Conjunctivitis can be caused by allergies, virus, or bacteria not all require exclusion from school)

Parents will be notified, and their children will be sent home if they show any of the above symptoms. Likewise children should not come to School if they show these symptoms at home.

Our program has some specific guidelines regarding a sick child returning to school: ***24 hour rule statement.***

Once a child has been diagnosed with a specific illness the following guidelines will be followed to ensure a healthy environment.

***Children with a temperature over 100 ° must stay home fever free for 24 hours.***

1. ***Influenza:*** Children may return to the center if they have had a normal temperature for 24 hours.
2. ***Conjunctivitis and ear infection:*** Children may return to the center 24 hours after the first dose of treatment or medication.
3. ***Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever:*** Children may return to the center 24 hours after the first dose of medication.
4. ***Lice:*** Children may return to the center after a prescription shampoo has been applied and lice are gone. The Center has a ***No NIT Policy***. Children must see the Director before entering the classroom.
5. ***Impetigo:*** Children may return to the center 24 hours after the medication has started.
6. ***Chicken Pox:*** Children may return to the center after all the blisters have scabbed over and with a doctor's note.
7. ***Hand foot and mouth:*** Children may return to the center once they have maintained a normal temperature for 24 hours
8. ***Pin worms, Ring Worms, Scabies:*** Children may return to the center after being treated for no less than 24 hours.
9. ***Diarrhea and vomiting:*** Children with these symptoms must stay home until normal activity level is back; diarrhea and vomiting have stopped for 24 hours.

Any child who is to ill to participate in our daily activities, including outdoor play should not attend school. Again please make alternative childcare arrangements should your child become ill.

***We ask for the cooperation and understanding of every parent in the center in keeping their children home when they are sick and contagious. This will help maintaining a healthy environment for all children and staff in the center.***

Thank you for your help in keeping a healthy environment for all.

Linda Chery-Valentin  
Executive Director

Jean Sniffin  
Early Childhood Health consultant