

SICK CHILD POLICY:

We cannot and will not accept a child for care if he/she is sick as described in our health policy and guidelines below:

HEALTH POLICY

Please keep your child home if he or she:

- Has a known or suspected disease such as measles, chickenpox, mumps, strep throat, impetigo, hepatitis, etc. or a condition such as head lice etc.
- Has symptoms such as generalized rash, vomiting, diarrhea, chronic cough, severe cold, severe sore throat, thick-discolored nasal mucus, or persistent fever -- until clear diagnosis is established and/or the disease is beyond the communicable period.
- **If** too ill to take part in regular activities, is complaining of nausea or a stomach ache, is lethargic and or appears ill.

If a child becomes ill at preschool we will call the parent to come for the child as we do not have the facilities to accommodate or look after a sick child. Please be sure you leave a number where you can be reached or have an alternate number & that those numbers are updated when necessary.

If a child is sent home sick with vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever, she will not be readmitted for 24 hours. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

If your child does become infected with contagious disease or condition, please notify the school as soon as possible in order to help prevent the spread to others or re-infestation of the same child.

Children who do not have a fever, but may possibly have an upper respiratory infection such as a cold, do not need to be excluded for the protection of other children. So many children carry respiratory viruses that it doesn't make sense to single them out from each other. (A child with a chronic cough or persistent fever, however, should be seen by a doctor to rule out a more serious infection.)

Children who are taking antibiotics, who do not have a fever and otherwise seem well, need not be excluded from preschool. Children diagnosed with an ear infection and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours need not be excluded from preschool either.

Please note that if your child is too sick to go outside to play, they are too sick to be at preschool.

GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION OF A SICK CHILD

A child with any of the following symptoms will not be allowed under any circumstances to attend or remain at school:

CONJUNCTIVITIS:

Children with infectious conjunctivitis ("pink eye") with white or yellow eye discharge can return after they have used antibiotic treatment for 24 hours.

DIARRHEA:

An increased number of abnormally loose stools in a 24-hour period.

A child must be free of diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

EYE I NOSE DRAINAGE:

Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or nose must be diagnosed by a doctor and stay home until mucus is clear.

FEVER:

A temperature over 99.0 F. A child must be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

IMPETIGO:

A child is excluded until 24 hours after treatment is initiated.

RASH:

Skin rashes must be diagnosed by a doctor to determine whether contagious.

STREP THROAT:

A child is excluded until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.

VOMITING:

A child must be free of vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.

CHICKEN POX:

A child is excluded until 6 days after the onset of rash or until all sores have dried and crusted.

Unfortunately it is inevitable that children are going to get sick. Studies show that the average child has 8-10 colds per year lasting 7-10 days each. Making a decision that a child is "too sick" to attend school can be a complex one. All of us, parents and staff, have a mutual interest in the children's health and welfare. A sick child does not belong at school. We cannot give sick children the one-to-one attention they need. Here at school, they do not get the recuperative rest they require. Clearly, we sympathize with parents whose children are sick and need to stay home from school. We understand that parents have jobs they need to attend to and are inconvenienced by their child's illness. Many of us on the staff are parents and have been faced with this problem as well. At the same time, we realize that the parents of a well-child do not want their child exposed to infectious diseases while at school when it can be avoided. Therefore, it is important that these guidelines be followed.

If you are not sure whether or not it is okay to bring your child, please call ahead to ask us. We may require a doctor's decision as to whether or not the child is contagious or able to return to school. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.