

Dear Parents,

One of our main goals is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. In an effort to do this we have an illness policy in place to take precautionary measures.

Children do become ill, and often at times which are unpredictable and inconvenient. Please be mindful that many illnesses can spread quickly so we must be careful not to unnecessarily expose the other children to them. Under no circumstance is a sick child to attend daycare..

I have a responsibility to protect not only your child, but the other families in this program, and myself. It is the parents responsibility to make sure there is alternative care lined up if needed

Based on my experience, there's a lot of 'gray area' that surfaces when our little ones are feeling less than their best. I ask that each parent be overly conservative and to think about whether or not their child can keep up or participate with the pace of our activities before sending them for the day. When a child is sick it is normal for low energy, and as a provider I want to ensure that over exhaustion does not occur by attending for the day when the body needs rest/ recovery within the comfort of their own home.

Children who have exhibited ANY symptoms of infectious illness within the 24-hour period are likely to be contagious and must remain at home. If a family member is home sick with a contagious illness, I ask that you please keep all other children at home also since they will be contagious before they show any symptoms themselves. Also, if a child gets sick during daycare and needs to go home, I require siblings to go home as well. The provider reserves the right to determine whether a child should remain in daycare when there is illness.

Questions to ask yourself to help with making the decision:

1. Can my child cover his/her cough?
2. Is there excessive and or discolored nasal discharge?
3. Is s/he lethargic
4. Is s/he well enough to partake in daily activities and routine
5. Is s/he noticeably uncomfortable or more irritable
6. Is s/he difficult to console

What happens if my child starts to shows signs and symptoms during the day? :

If a child becomes ill during daycare, their parent will be promptly notified and are expected to pick up their child immediately. The sick child will, if possible, be isolated from the other daycare children to minimize exposure. If the parent cannot be reached, the person designated as the emergency contact will be notified. It is the providers decision on how long a child will need to be excluded from daycare, even if a doctor's note is provided.

Extra Precautionary Measures:

I require all children in my care to be immunized. If your child has a doctor appointment during their scheduled daycare hours and they receive shots, it is recommended that you keep them home for the rest of the day to be sure they do not have any reactions. If you do choose to bring your child after shots, their temperature will be monitored and they will be sent home at the first sign of a fever starting or of any other possible reaction. Be sure to bring a new copy of your child's shot records after receiving new shots.

Although supervision is constantly given, I cannot be by the child's side at all times to prevent falls, tripping, bumps, blows from other children, etc. If the child is injured in a non life-threatening way, I will assess the Child, notify family members or emergency contact and provide home first aid. If the injury is more serious, the parent/ emergency contact will be notified so the child can be transported to the hospital or doctor's office at the parent's expense.

Medications:

No child will be given any prescription medication:

unless written permission is given by the parent. Prescription medication must have the child's name, name of medication, date, and directions for administering. The medication must be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy. Administration of any medication will be logged on a Medication Administration Record and the permission form must be on file (Permission to Administer Medication and Over The Counter Medication Permission Form)

I do NOT supply any sort of fever reducer or pain medicine:

(ibuprofen, tylenol, motrin...). If your child needs one of these for a reason other than being sick, you can supply it and I will give it to your child as needed. If your child's age and weight is not listed on the packaging, I will need a doctor approved dosage form.

Additional Safety Measures:

- A. To prevent sun injury and insect bites, parents may provide sunscreen and bug spray for their child. Parents will provide written authorization for the type/brand and application of sunscreen and bug spray.
- B. Children will go outside twice daily except when temperatures reach above 90°F or drop below 0°F.
- C. Toys are always washed with bleach and water solution to prevent spread of germs
- D. Food and liquids hotter than 110°F are kept out of children's reach and children are not allowed in the center kitchen.
- E. Hand washing for children is required upon arrival for the day, before and after snacks and lunch, after toileting, before and after sensory play, and entering the classroom from another outdoors.
- F. Precautions are taken to ensure that communal water play does not spread infectious disease. In addition to hand washing, fresh potable water is used and the water is changed before a new group of children comes to participate in the water play activity. When the activity period is completed with each group of children, the water is drained.

