

Illness Policy

If a child comes to school when he/she is not feeling well, then he/she will infect other children. Do not send your child to preschool when he/she is ill or exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

1. Yellow/greenish or slightly colored nasal discharge (cloudy -- not clear), or excessive runny nose. *Children with constant runny noses that are not caused by allergies may spread germs everywhere. They may wipe their noses with their hands then rub them on their own and other people's clothing and on other surfaces.* *
2. Skin rashes of any kind, unless you have a signed release from your pediatrician.
3. Marked loss of appetite.
4. Listlessness or unexpected fatigue.
5. Fever: ANYTHING ABOVE 100.4 CONSTITUTES A FEVER. After having a fever, and before returning to school, a child's temperature MUST be normal (98.6F) for a period of not less than 24 hours without the use of Tylenol, Advil, or any other fever control medications.
6. Abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea or loose stool.
7. Swollen glands, sore throat or persistent cough.
8. Drainage or discharge from ear or pain in the ear.
9. Drainage or discharge from eye, or if eyes seem red and irritated or itchy.

Often, children may ask to come to school even though they are ill. Although your child may be disappointed, PLEASE do not send your child to school if he/she is not feeling well or exhibits any of the symptoms listed above. A child needs to be well to be able to actively participate in the program. **Please call or email the Preschool and inform the Director of the child's illness.**

If you are parent assisting and find yourself feeling ill before school, please find a substitute for yourself. If you are feeling ill during the day, we can shut down an area of play so you can leave.

If your child has a contagious disease, or has been in contact with someone who has a contagious disease and your child has the potential to be contagious, please keep your child home and **immediately inform the Director**. (We are required to report communicable diseases such as chicken pox, measles or whooping cough to the Contra Costa Health Services).

Additionally, if your child contracts head lice, which is not a 'disease' but highly contagious you need to immediately inform the Director and follow the instructions on our Head Lice Policy in order for your child to be re-admitted to the preschool. Should the preschool staff find head lice on your child at school, you will be contacted and asked to come pick up your child.

If the teachers notice an ill child at school, it is their discretion to decide upon a course of action. If you notice another child with any of the above symptoms, please notify the teachers. It is the teacher's responsibility to notify the parent of illness. To ensure the healthiest environment for our children, this policy will be strictly enforced.

THE TEACHERS WILL ENFORCE THIS ILLNESS POLICY. THE TEACHER WILL CALL YOU IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO GO HOME. YOU MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK THE CHILD UP. THEY WILL BE KEPT IN THE OFFICE UNTIL YOU ARRIVE.

If you move, change telephone numbers, or make changes in information you placed on your child's *Emergency Card*, please notify us immediately. This is especially important if your child becomes ill or we need to notify you about any emergency at school. If you plan to be not at home while your child is at school please make sure we have a cell phone number for you so we can reach you if your child becomes ill.

This illness policy is within the guidelines of the Contra Costa County Health Services and conforms to OSHA (The US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requirements.

* American Red Cross Healthy Policy Guide, "Preventing Infectious Disease."