

Health Policy

Purpose: To promote early recognition and isolation of children exhibiting signs or symptoms of impending illness in an attempt to minimize the spread of communicable diseases.

Procedures:

Daily Inspections:

Every child shall be inspected upon arrival to the center prior to the parent's departure. The child's instructor will check the child for any excludable symptoms or bruises. Arkansas regulations require children with the following symptoms to be removed from child care services:

- **Fever:** A child or staff member with a body temperature of 100 degrees axillary.
- **Diarrhea:** Three or more watery stools within a twenty-four hour period.
- **Vomiting:** Two or more episodes of vomiting within a twenty-four hour period.
- **Rash:** Body rashes not obviously associated with diapering, heat, or allergic reaction to medication.
- **Sore Throat:** If associated with fever or swollen glands in the neck.
- **Severe Coughing:** Episodes of coughing which may lead to repeated gagging, vomiting or difficulty breathing.
- **Pink Eye:** Pink or red eye(s) which may be swollen with white or yellow discharge, until on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- **Impetigo:** May return 24 hours after treatment is initiated.
- **Ringworm:** A fungal infection of the scalp or skin: may return after evaluation and under treatment by a health care provider.
- **Untreated Scabies, Head Lice or the Presence of nits:** May return after treatment and removal of nits.

Communicable Illnesses:

If a communicable illness occurs within the center, a health letter will be sent home with each child. The letter will inform the parents of the following:

1. Signs and symptoms of the illness.
2. Exclusion period from the center.
3. Treatment necessary.
4. When the child will be permitted to re-enter the center.

Isolation:

Any child who becomes ill or unable to participate in daily activities shall be isolated in a separate room and supervised. The parent or person authorized to pick up the child will be notified and must pick up the child within one hour of notification.

In an attempt to provide a safe environment for all of the children, children must be free of fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hours before returning to the center. If a child has been put on antibiotics to treat an illness, they must have taken the antibiotics for 24 hours prior to returning to the center. If there is a question regarding the potential risk to other children from an infectious disease, a physician's statement will be necessary for the child to return to the center.

If your child is well enough to come to the center and weather permits, the children will go outside. Fresh air is important in a group situation. Therefore, if your child must stay inside, please send a physician's note.

Medication Administration:

Prior to administering any medications, the following criteria must be met:

- There must be a signed and dated parental consent.
- Medication must be in the original container with the child's name and a current date on the bottle.
- The amount, dose, time, and route for the medication to be given must also be clearly legible on the medication container.
- If a caregiver is uncertain of any of the above information, it will be clarified by the parent or pharmacist prior to acceptance of the medication.
- The director will be responsible for giving all medications.
- Parents are responsible for picking up any medication that is brought to the center.
- All medications shall be kept locked up and out of reach of the children at all times. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be kept in a locked box in the refrigerator.
- Dosages greater than specified on the label can NOT be given.
- An individual medication record will be kept within each child's individual file for three years and the following information will be included on it:
 1. Child's name
 2. Known allergies
 3. Name of medication
 4. Date of prescription
 5. Time medication is to be given

6. Signature of Parent
7. Signature of staff accepting medication.
8. Signature of staff administering medication.

Oral instructions on medication for a child will NOT be accepted.

The center is not responsible for any reaction your child might experience from a medication the center is instructed to give.

Tylenol:

Children with a slight fever may be given liquid Tylenol if parental permission is on file in the child's records. I may request that if my child runs a fever, he/she be given the appropriate dosage of Tylenol, per his/her weight, as prescribed by the instructions on the bottle until I can pick my child up.

Cleansing of Bedding and Toys:

- Infant and toddler toys that a child puts in his/her mouth shall be disinfected daily or prior to another child's use with a disinfectant solution. Preschool and school-age toys shall be cleaned weekly.
- Cots shall be cleansed daily.
- Infant crib sheets shall be washed daily.
- Cot sheets and blankets shall be washed weekly.