

Infection Control Policy

It is inevitable that children will get sick. As children begin to have contact with the world outside that of their own families, they come into contact with the germs and bacteria that are foreign to their bodies. This is the way the build immunities. We cannot nor would we want to shield a child completely from the outside world. If we did, the natural immunities a child gains through contact with others would not develop and a simple cold could become a serious illness. We do, however, want to protect a child from unusually high exposure to germs all at once.

In a school setting, children come into contact with groups of other children outside of their own families. It is in this situation that the illness of one child can spread rapidly through the group to other children and staff members if stringent measures to prevent this spread are not taken.

For this reason, the staff at the school will take constant precautions to prevent the spread of disease. Many common childhood diseases are contagious. They are spread by germs that may be shared in several ways. Intestinal tract infections spread through coughs, sneezes and runny noses. Other diseases are spread through direct contact. Careful hand washing by staff can eliminate approximately 75% of the risk of spreading these illnesses. Other precautions include separating sick children from those who are well, taking extra precautions with toileting, and working to maintain sanitary conditions throughout the center.

You, the parents can help us in our effort to keep the children healthy as well. We ask your cooperation in the following ways:

If your child shows any signs of the following symptoms listed below, we will call you and ask you to pick your child up immediately. Please help us to protect the other children by responding promptly. If the child has one of the following symptoms at home, we ask that you keep him/her out of school until the symptoms are gone or until a physician gives you a note saying the child may return to school.

The symptoms include:

- fever – 101 orally (may return to school 24 hours after the fever is gone)
- vomiting – previous night or morning of school (may return to school 24 hours after the vomiting stops)
- diarrhea- loose stools (may return to school 24 hours after the diarrhea stops)
- excessive runny nose
- severe coughing – child gets red or blue in the face/child makes a high pitched croupy or whooping sound after he coughs
- difficult or rapid breathing
- yellowish skin or eyes
- pinkeye- tears, redness of eyelid lining, followed by swelling or discharge
(pinkeye- may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic begins)
- unusual spots or rashes
- sore throat or trouble swallowing
- infected skin patches
- crusty bright yellow, dry or gummy areas of the skin-possibly accompanied by fever
- gray or white stool
- headache and stiff neck
- itching of body or scalp or severe scratching of scalp

If a child appears cranky or less active than usual, cries more than usual or just seems generally unwell at home, please let your child's teacher know so that they can watch for any of the above symptoms.

It is imperative that we all work together to keep the children who attend the school as healthy and happy as possible. We thank you for your cooperation.