

ILLNESS POLICY RESTATED

We understand that all children have minor illnesses from time to time that do not prevent them from attending daycare; however, there are certain circumstances where children cannot attend. We are a well-child care program and although we understand that it is an inconvenience for a client to take time off from work when a child cannot attend care, there are critical reasons for the exclusion. Any time that an ill child doesn't feel well enough to participate comfortably in activities requires more care than the childcare provider is able to provide without compromising the health & safety of the other children. An unwell child can also quickly spread illness to the other children in the group. This is group care and the needs of the group as a whole take priority.

Symptoms for Exclusion:

Keep your children home if they exhibit any of the listed symptoms. Children must be excluded for 24 hours after the symptoms of the illness have subsided without the aid of medication. Do not confuse this with the onset of symptoms, meaning the 24 hours begin after the child's symptoms disappear. If a child is sent home sick, a minimum of 48 hours exclusion will be required.

No matter what the cause is, a child is not able to attend care if any symptoms for exclusion are exhibited. Those include but are not limited to:

- Sore throat/coughing/severe colds or strep throat.
- Fever of 100° F or above.
- Green/yellow discharge from nose or mucus that needs to be wiped continually.
- Ear discharge.
- Head lice, nits, fleas, bedbugs or scabies.
- Any loose stools within 24 hours.
- Vomiting within 24 hours.
- Severe diaper rash.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye).
- Mumps, measles, Chicken pox, influenza, pertussis (whooping cough), croup, impetigo, tuberculosis, rubella, rosella, etc.
- Any type of body rash. May return when rash is no longer visible and has healed.
- Intestinal worms, ringworms, pin worms etc.
- Anything contagious and transmittable.
- Any ailment that requires fever or pain medication.
- If the child is too tired or fussy to participate in normal activities.

If a child becomes ill at daycare the family will be contacted and the child must be picked up within one hour. During the time spent waiting, the ill child will be separated from the other children and given the opportunity to rest.

If a child becomes ill at home over the weekend and is included in the group on Monday exhibiting symptoms, they will be sent home and must be symptom free for 24 hours and a minimum of 48 hours will be required before returning to care. The same is true for unwell children sent home from care any day of the week.

Re-admittance after Exclusion

In all occurrences listed above EXCEPT tiredness or the common cold, a medical form (Doctor's note) must be filled out for a child's records on file before your child can be re-admitted into care. These forms require a written diagnosis from the child's physician (not a nurse) and must state the following information:

- The child's name.
- The diagnosis
- The treatment
- Length of recommended exclusion
- Signed statement when the child can return to daycare without the risk of infection to others.

It is at the discretion of the childcare provider to determine whether a child can be re-admitted to the program. Please do not assume the doctor can give permission for re-admittance. Their advice is always merely a suggestion and any program policy overrides this. If the childcare provider deems that the child is not well enough to attend the child is to remain at home.

There are times when a child may be excluded due to the required amount of care he or she needs when experiencing a common cold or illness. For example, a cough that is disruptive to normal daily activities, when a child is unable to cover his/her mouth while coughing or when the amount of nasal discharge or fluid becomes unmanageable for the provider to continue maintaining a sanitary environment. This will occur at the discretion of the childcare provider and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Medication

The childcare provider will not administer any type of medication at daycare. This includes prescription and non-prescription medication. If a child needs medication of any kind a dosage schedule must be set up that does not include the hours that the child is in care. Families are required to notify the childcare provider any time that their child is on any type of medication so that we can look out for possible reactions to the medication.

Keep in mind that fever reducers and pain relievers do not cure illnesses, they simply mask symptoms. If a child is given any form of fever reducer or pain reliever, then this means that the child is not well enough to attend daycare and is required to be kept home for a minimum of 24 hours from the time that the last dosage was given. Do not send a sick child to daycare by giving a fever/pain reducer to mask the symptom. The effects of the medication will eventually wear off (usually between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. if given in the morning) and it will be apparent to the childcare provider that the child was given medication. Giving a child fever/pain reducer and bringing a child to daycare are immediate grounds for termination.

Antibiotics

Children that are put on a new regimen of antibiotics must be excluded from daycare for the first twenty-four (24) hours after starting the dosage. This is to minimize the risk of infection to the other children as most antibiotics take a full 24 hours to take effect and render the infection incommunicable. It also helps minimize the risk of the child having a severe allergic reaction to the antibiotic while at daycare. Children exhibiting symptoms for exclusion due to antibiotics must still follow the illness policy.

Immunizations

A copy of every child's immunization records must be kept in each child's file. If for any reason a client chooses not to have the child immunized, a "Personal/Medical/Religious Beliefs Affidavit" must be completed and kept in the child's file instead. All children are required to stay home for a minimum of 48 hours after being immunized. Children exhibiting symptoms for exclusion due to immunizations must still follow the illness policy. We suggest that a child's immunizations be scheduled on Friday afternoons to minimize the time that a person must take off from work. This way the child's required recovery time can pass through the weekend.

This illness policy excludes all children from care until they have been symptom free for a full 24 hours (one full day after symptoms have subsided). Any child who arrives at care ill and is sent home must remain home for a full 48 hours (two full days not including the day they are sent home) after symptoms have subsided without the use of OTC medications. By signing in the space below, it is stated that all the policies and procedures in the Footprints Family Childcare Illness Policy are understood and agreed upon.

- ✓ This is to verify that I have read in full the Footprints Family Childcare Handbook and I agree to comply with the policies outlined therein.

- ✓ I have read and understand that my child's enrollment depends on adherence to the Footprints handbook.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN SIGNED: _____ DATED: _____