

## **Illness Policy**

Children in any child care setting average eight to ten respiratory illnesses in the first few years. We recognize that illnesses can be stressful for the parent and the child. However, our program is only equipped to serve "well children." The decision as to what constitutes "ill" will be based on the observation of the Caregiver, Nurse and/or Director.



The Nursery is proactive in the fight against the spread of illness. This includes consistent practices of hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting. In addition, the following guidelines have been established to determine whether a child is to be admitted or allowed to stay in the program on a particular day. Each child will be observed upon arriving to the program and throughout the day. If the health of the child is in question, the child will not be permitted to stay.

### **Illnesses/Communicable Disease Policy**

Under no circumstances will The Nursery serve or admit any child who has any illness, symptom of illness or disease that a health care provider has determined requires the child to be:

- Confined to home under a health care provider's immediate care; or
- Admitted to a hospital for medical care and treatment.

The Nursery will not permit a child who has any of the illnesses or symptoms of illness specified below to be admitted to The Nursery unless medical diagnosis from a health care provider, which has been communicated to The Nursery in writing, indicates that the child poses no serious health risk to himself/ herself or to other children. Such illnesses or symptoms of illness include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Acute diarrhea, characterized as twice the usual frequency of bowel movements with a change to a looser consistency within a period of 24 hours, or bloody diarrhea
- Two or more episodes of acute vomiting within a period of 24 hours
- Oral temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit or over or auxiliary temperature of 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or over in conjunction with behavior changes
- Lethargy that is more than expected tiredness
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Difficult rapid breathing or severe coughing
- Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
- Weeping or bleeding skin lesions that have not been treated by a health care provider
- Mouth sores with drooling; or
- Stiff neck

Once the child is symptom-free for 24 hours **without medication**, or a health care provider indicates that the child poses no serious health risk to himself/herself or to other children, the child may return to The Nursery.

- If a child who has already been admitted to The Nursery manifests any of the illnesses or symptoms of illness specified above, We will remove the child from the group of well children to a separate room or area, until:
  - He or she can be taken from The Nursery; or
  - The director, nurse or a designee has communicated verbally with a health care provider, who indicates that the child poses no serious health risk to himself or herself or to other children, at which time the child may return to the group
- The Nursery may exclude a child whose illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities, or results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children at The Nursery.
- The Nursery will not permit a child with an excludable communicable disease, as specified in the table below, to be admitted to or remain at The Nursery, until:
  - A note from the child's health care provider states that the child, has been diagnosed and presents no risk to himself, herself, or to others;
  - The Nursery has contacted the Communicable Disease Program in the State Department of Health and Senior Services, or the local health department pediatric health consultant, and is told the child poses no health risk to others;
  - If the child has chicken pox, The Nursery obtains a note from the parent stating that all sores have dried and crusted.

Table of excludable Communicable Diseases

Chicken Pox	Campylobacter	Impetigo
German Measles	Escherichia Coli	Lice
Hemophilus Influenza	Giardia Lambia	Scabies
Measles	Hepatitis A	Shingles
Meningococcus	Salmonella	
Mumps	Shigella	
Strep Throat	Pink eye	
Tuberculosis		
Whooping Cough		

### Attendance by children known to be infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- The Nursery will admit a child known to be infected with HIV (also known as HTLV-III or LAV), the virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- The Nursery will not exclude a child known to be infected with HIV in order to protect him or her from possible exposure to the infectious diseases of other persons at The Nursery
- The Nursery will not exclude a child solely for the reason that such individual lives with or is related to a person known to be infected with HIV
- The director will maintain the confidentiality of any child known to be infected with HIV
- The Nursery will not require the routine medical screening of children in the center to detect the presence of HIV.

### **Prevention of Illness**

Because young children are vulnerable to infectious diseases, we encourage you as the parent to be aware of our health policies as stated. Prevention of illnesses or contagious diseases is critical. We encourage you to:

1. Do a brief assessment of your child's health each morning. Please do not bring a sick child to The Nursery.
2. Provide disposable as opposed to cloth diapers.
3. Provide disposable wipes.
4. Be aware that low-grade fevers may be associated with an infection or illness, and not "just teething".
5. Keep front office and classroom emergency cards up-to-date.
6. Dress your child appropriately – according to weather, etc.
7. Be aware that on short notice you may have to pick up your child due to illness.