



Bright Start Child Development Center

Illness Policy

We have revised our Illness Policy and it is now based on the Model Health Care Policies developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Bright Start understands that it is difficult for a parent/guardian to leave or miss work; therefore, it is suggested that alternative arrangements be made for occasions when children must remain at home or be picked up due to illness. Exclusion from the center is sometimes necessary either to reduce the transmission of illness or because the center is not able to adequately meet the needs of ill child. Mild illnesses are common among children, and infections are often spread before the onset of any symptoms. In these cases, we try to keep the children comfortable throughout the day. Reasons for Bright start to exclude children include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities, such as going outdoors
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children (ex. Sick child needing to be held and comforted)
- Severely ill appearance:
 - Fever of 100 degrees or above
 - Unexplained fever in a child younger **than 4 months**
 - Diarrhea; watery stools or decreased form of stool not associated with change of diet; stool not contained in diaper; child unable to reach the toilet; or stool frequency that exceeds 2+ stools above normal for that child
 - Vomiting more **than 2 times** in the previous **24 hours**
 - Mouth sores with drooling
 - Bodily pain that continues for more than **2 hours** (ex. abdominal pain, toothache, headache, etc.)
 - Rash with fever or behavioral changes
 - Weeping skin sores
- Purulent conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) until **24 hours** after treatment has started
- Strep throat until **48 hours** after treatment has started
- Head lice or nits until after first treatment
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak (Measles, Mumps, Hand Foot Mouth Disease)
- **Can return to school symptom free with doctor's note**



For your child's comfort, and to reduce the risk of contagion, **we ask that children be picked up within 1 hours of notification.** Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms.

Children need to remain home for 24/48 hours without symptoms before returning to the program, unless the center receives a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is not contagious and may return to the center.

If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, rash a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return is required. **The final decision on whether to exclude a child from the program due to illness will be made by the child care center.**

Note: **Notes allowing for a child's return to the center after exclusion due to illness must originate from the child's medical provider. A note written and signed by the child's parent/guardian who is also a physician is not acceptable.**

Common Cold Policy

Children suffering from a common cold will be assessed on an individual basis. Factors of consideration include the developmental level of your child in congruence with our ability to limit the spread of germs. The younger your child, the more difficult it is to keep the spread of germs down. For example: hand to face contact, mouthing of toys, uncontrolled nasal discharge, uncovered sneezing and coughing etc.

Medication Administration Policy

Medications both prescription and over the counter are rarely given at school; the only exceptions involve special or serious problems where it deemed absolutely necessary by the physician that the medication be given during school hours. The parent is urged, with the help of your child's physician, to work out a schedule of giving medication at home, outside school hours whenever possible.

No child is allowed to attend school if given any **fever/ pain** reducing medication. Bright Start will not administer **fever/pain** reducing medication.

I have read and understand Bright Start's Illness Policy:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name Printed: _____