

HEALTH CARE POLICY

At New Day Children's Center we provide care for **healthy children**. It is our responsibility to make every effort to stop the spread of illness. In order to give your child the quality care he or she deserves we have developed a policy which helps our center to stop the spread of illness while working closely with families. We believe that a policy such as this is in the best interest of the children, families, and staff at our center.

Medical Statements must be completed by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner prior to the child's first day of enrollment, and updated as needed with current immunization information. The Physician must indicate that the child is up to date on his/her immunizations and free from contagious disease. Children will not be allowed to begin care until the form is complete.

Hand washing is the number one way to prevent the spread of germs. All children must wash their hands upon arrival to the center!

Why should I keep my child from coming to the center?

Experience has taught us that children who are ill may not only spread illness to others, but may also have a difficult time keeping up with the daily routine. A child who is sick may be overly tired or may be responding to medication. Although we work very hard at meeting the needs of all of the children in our care, a sick child may also require more one on one care than we are able to provide in a group setting.

If your child develops symptoms while he or she is in our care we will use our judgment and past experience to assess whether or not your child should be sent home. If we feel that your child is not feeling well enough to participate in the program or may have a contagious illness you will be contacted and asked to pick up your child.

Reasons we may call you if your child:

- develops a fever
- is vomiting
- has diarrhea, more than one time
- has a rash that is not identifiable
- has pink eye/conjunctivitis
- **has a severe cold with temperature elevation, constant cough, sneezing, and thick nasal discharge**

****Administrative staff will communicate with teachers to determine if your child should be sent home.****
****We will use many years of past experiences with sick children, as well as common sense, to make these decisions.****

What does the child care center do to help prevent illness in children?

Children who enter child care for the first time become ill more often than children who are cared for at home or by one person alone. This is because children can spread illness quickly by putting things in their mouths and touching toys and objects without washing their hands. Although toys are cleaned daily there is a much greater chance of children coming in contact with germs because several children are using toys and objects in the classroom. Often, children who become ill several times when beginning care will become ill less frequently as they grow older. This is because their bodies build up a natural immunity to illness by being exposed to certain illnesses when they are younger. Our center helps to prevent the spread of illness by doing the following:

- teaching and helping children to wash their hands
- observing children for any symptoms of illness
- following appropriate sanitizing procedures
- sending home your child's bedding each week to be laundered

What can I do about getting care for my child when he or she is ill?

It is important for you to plan ahead and find a responsible person or persons to care for your child when he or she is ill. This person might be a relative, friend, or neighbor who loves your child and is willing to help you out so that you may be able to return to work, school or a scheduled appointment. Having a back-up system for child care when your child is ill will help you to stay calm and fulfill your responsibilities without worry.

How long do I have to pick up my child?

When we contact you about picking up your son or daughter due to illness you will need to arrange to have your child picked up from the center as soon as possible. Since we are responsible for making sure that your child will not have further contact with other children when he or she is ill, we ask that you make arrangements to have your child picked up within an hour after you have been called. If the center is unable to reach you or your spouse or your child is not picked up within one hour after we have contacted you, the center will call the emergency or back-up persons listed on your child's blue card and ask that he or she pick up your child.

What is a fever?

Our center considers any number over 100 degrees for children under 12 months of age and 101 degrees for children 12 months and older to be a fever. We will take a child's temperature at the center if he or she feels warm or if he or she has other symptoms which may indicate illness. If your child has a fever the center director or classroom teacher will inform you of his or her numerical temperature and you will be asked to come and pick up your child from the center.

When can my child return to the child care center?

Your child may return to the center if your child has been fever and symptom free for 24 hours without medication.

If we send your child home from the Center, we will require a doctor's note to return.

What do I do about giving my child medication while he or she is at the child care center?

Prescription and orally-administered over-the-counter medication may be administered only upon written permission of the parent and written instructions from a health care provider stating that the child day care provider may administer such medication or prescription. We have specific health care forms in the office that must be taken to the doctor's office. Along with a signed statement from your doctor's office, the following information should also be included:

- child's name
- the full name of the medicine
- the amount of medication to be given
- how often or what times to give the medication
- how long or for how many days the medication should be given
- the package insert instructions
- the pharmacist insert
- authorized prescriber name
- pharmacy name and phone number
- date prescription filled

All medicines need to be in their original containers and labeled with your child's full name. For the safety of all, please make sure that any medications you bring are given to your child's teacher or the center director when your child is dropped off at the center. As a safety precaution, medication may not be left in children's cubbies, diaper bags, or backpacks. We will send any unused medication home with you.

What is the center policy regarding over the counter medications and/or topical ointments?

The teachers will need written permission from you to apply any type of topical ointment or cream, including sunscreen, to your child's skin. These include, but are not limited to: diaper creams, moisturizers, sunscreen, prescription ointments, and Vaseline.

If my child is diagnosed with an illness, do I need to tell the child care center?

The center relies on parents to report diagnosed cases of illness to us. When we learn that a child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness we will notify center parents of the name of the illness and its symptoms. Since all medical information about your child is confidential, we will never use your child's or your family's name in any information which we distribute. Information about illness is distributed to help families know what symptoms to watch for in their child. By observing children and noticing signs of illness before coming to the center, families can help us to prevent the spread of illness.

You will be required to submit an updated medical record for your child each year in September.