



Notice to Parents Illness Control Policy

It is inevitable that children will get sick, no matter where they are. As children begin to have contact with the world outside that of their own families, they are exposed to viruses and bacteria that are foreign to their bodies. This is the way they build immunity. 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. However, we do want to protect a child from an unusually high exposure to germs all at once.

In a child care setting, children come in to contact with groups of other children outside their 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 center will take constant precautions to prevent the spread of disease. Many common childhood diseases are contagious. They are caused by germs which may spread in several ways. Intestinal tract infections are spread through stool. Respiratory tract infections are spread through cough, sneezes and runny noses. Other diseases are spread through direct contact. Careful handwashing by staff and children can eliminate 75% of the risk of spreading these illnesses. Other precautions include separating sick children from those who are well, taking extra precautions with diapering or toilet training children and working to maintain sanitary conditions throughout the center.

You, the parents, can help us in our effort to keep your child healthy.

We ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

1. If your child has been exposed to any of the diseases listed on the accompanying list, we ask that you notify us of the exposure.
2. If your child shows any of the following symptoms, you will be called and asked to pick your child up immediately. Please help us protect the other children by responding promptly. If your child has any of the following symptoms at home, we ask that you keep him/her out of school until the symptoms are gone without the aid of medication or your physician says it is ok to return (a signed note required).

The symptoms include:

- ✦ fever greater than 101 ° F (child must be fever free for a full 24 hrs before returning
- ✦ severe coughing-child gets red or blue in the face
- ✦ high-pitched croupy or whooping sounds after coughing
- ✦ difficult or rapid breathing- especially in infants
- ✦ yellowish skin or eyes
- ✦ pinkeye-tears, redness of eyelid lining, followed by swelling and discharge of pus
- ✦ unusual spots or rashes
- ✦ sore throat or trouble swallowing
- ✦ crusty, bright yellow, dry, or gummy areas of skin – possibly accompanied by fever
- ✦ grey or white stool
- ✦ headache and stiff neck
- ✦ recurring vomiting or diarrhea (2 episodes)
- ✦ severe itching of body or scalp or scratching of scalp

Antibiotics: A child with a contagious condition for which antibiotics have been prescribed may NOT attend daycare if he/she shows signs of illness. This policy is for the benefit and protection of all children and staff.

Head Lice: A child with head lice must stay home until specific treatment is completed and lice and nits in hair and clothing are absent.

Impetigo and Conjunctivitis: These are very contagious conditions and must be treated with antibiotics before the child may attend. If your child has red, runny eyes or scabby sores, I will notify you. Your child MUST be taken out of daycare until he / she has been seen by a doctor and been on medication for AT LEAST 48 hours.

Runny Nose: Generally, a clear discharge is okay, and a thick yellow-greenish discharge is a sign of a more serious infection. This is more dangerous for younger, rather than older children, and we will use our discretion about asking you to keep your child at home.

Strep Throat: A child with strep throat must not attend daycare until he / she has been on antibiotics for 24 hours and is symptom-free and feeling well.

If any of the above symptoms are present or if a child appears cranky or less active than usual, cries more than usual, or just seems generally unwell at home, you are asked to look for any of the above symptoms or inform the child's teacher so that the child can be watched carefully for development of symptoms.

It is imperative that we all work together to keep the children who attend the center as healthy and happy as possible. We thank you for your cooperation. Please note that Lighthouse Preschool & Daycare will make the final determination as to whether a child will be allowed to attend daycare.

Parent Agreement

Child's Name Arielle Nix Teacher Jasmine Nix

I have read and understand the illness policy, and I agree to abide by them for the protection of my child as well as the other children and staff members at Lighthouse Preschool & Daycare.