



## **Immunization & Illness Policy**

*this information can also be found on pp. 37-39 of the Parent Handbook*

### **IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH SCREENINGS**

For the protection of all children and families, children enrolled in the program must be current on all immunizations, according to recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics for their age. The Health and Wellness Coordinator must receive copies of immunization records within 30 days of enrollment. If your child is overdue for immunizations or required health screenings, they will not be allowed to return to school until the proper documentation is provided (or proof of a scheduled appointment). If you are abstaining from immunizations for religious reasons, please submit a notarized, written religious exemption letter.

### **ILLNESS**

The State of Georgia requires exclusion of any sick child from the program. Parents are asked to exercise good judgment and keep ill children at home and seek medical attention as appropriate. Children will not be allowed to attend the Center while suffering from the following illnesses:

1. **Fever:** Temperature of 101 degrees or greater. If a child comes to school and is known to have had a fever during the previous 24 hours, the staff will take the child's temperature to determine admission. Children will not be permitted to return to school until they have been free of fever for 24 hours without the use of medication.
2. **Behavior:** If a child looks and acts differently: awake and crying, unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, irritable or restless.
3. **Respiratory:** Breathing difficulties, e.g., wheezing, cold with yellow/green nasal discharge and prolonged cough.
4. **Vomiting:** More than the usual infant "spitting up"; children will be sent home after two incidents of vomiting and may not return until they have been at least 24 hours without vomiting.
5. **Diarrhea:** Is characterized by frequent watery or green-colored bowel movements, which are not related to medications or food reactions. Children will be sent home after two incidents of diarrhea and may not return until they have been at least 24 hours without diarrhea.
6. **Rash:** Undiagnosed rash other than mild diaper or heat rash.
7. **Sore Throat:** Sore throat that may need culturing because other signs are present.
8. **Eye Drainage:** Mucus discharge from the eye that may need medical attention for possible infection.

### **Our policies and procedures are as follows:**

1. If your child arrives at the Center with symptoms or possible illness or disease, you will be required to take your child home. If above symptoms manifest while your child is at school or if she/he has a significant accident, we will contact you immediately. Ill children are isolated and parents are requested to pick them up. If we are unable to contact you within 30 minutes or in the event you are unable to pick up your child, we will call your emergency contacts. An ill child must be picked up by a parent/guardian or authorized adult within one hour of being notified. If the child seems particularly sick or injured, we will attempt to call your child's doctor, or clinic for further instructions. In a genuine emergency, we will call the paramedics at 911 (less than ½ mile away) for assistance and, and simultaneously call you.
2. If a child contracts a contagious illness, parents are required to notify us so we can pass the information on to other parents along with our nurse's recommendations. Information provided to parents will include the type of contagious illness, signs and symptoms of the disease, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures for school and home. Your child's name will be kept confidential at all times.
3. In the event that a situation arises with a child that is beyond the capacity of the staff to properly care for and, at the same time ensure the smooth functioning of the program, parents will be asked to pick up the child as soon as possible.
4. Children who have had a contagious illness, have been hospitalized for illness or surgery, or have been out sick for 3 or more days MUST bring a doctor's note to return to school. Please remember this is important to ensure the health of ALL children and staff. If you do not bring a note, the teacher will refuse to accept your child into the classroom until a note is received.
5. The health of the children is monitored by classroom staff, as well as the Health and Wellness Coordinator. Determinations regarding the attendance of children who have recently been ill or had a medical issue (e.g. allergic reaction, side effects of medication, etc.) will be made by the Health and Wellness Coordinator.

### **MEDICINE**

We will administer prescription or non-prescription medicines to your child only with your written instructions. If you bring medicine to school, you must:

1. Make sure it is in the original, child proof container (inform the pharmacist before s/he fills the prescription). **NO OTHERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!**
2. Fill out a Medication Authorization Form stating what the medicine is, when it is to be given, and how much. This authorization form is good for a two-week period. Forms can be obtained from the front desk or the website.<sup>39</sup>
3. Make sure that medicine is in its original container labeled with the child's first and last name. Give the medicine and Medication Authorization Form to the nurse or the front desk/Receptionist. Medication may not be stored in cubbies, lunchboxes, or bags.
4. Medications that are to be given for longer than two weeks will require a written doctor's order to continue giving. These orders will need to be updated periodically and new orders written. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the doctor's office for the

updated orders. G-tube feedings and aerosol treatments will require a written physician order before being administered at school.

5. Medications that are to be given 3 or 4 times a day will be given at school as follows:
  - a. 3x/day medications – first and last dose to be given at home, middle dose given at school between 12:00 and 3:00
  - b. 4x/day medications – first and last dose to be given at home, second dose given at school at 11:00 and third dose given at school at 3:00