



Policy and Procedure for Excluding Ill Children

When deciding whether to keep a child in the classroom or to send the child home, four important things to think about are:

1. Does my child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does my child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being in contact with my child?
4. Does my child require medicine before or during school?

Children with any of the following symptoms are not permitted to remain in class:

- **Sick appearance**, not feeling well, and/or not able to keep up with program activities and/or temperature of over 100 degrees, axillary or ear.
- A child, regardless of temperature, who is acting lethargic, unable to participate and this is abnormal for that child, will be sent home.
- **Fever** over 100° F as read under arm (axillary temp.) or via ear thermometer, accompanied by one or more of the following:
 - diarrhea or vomiting
 - earache
 - headache
 - signs of irritability or confusion
 - sore throat
 - rash
 - fatigue that limits participation in daily activities
- **No rectal temperatures are taken. Digital thermometers are used.**
- **Vomiting:** 2 or more occasions within the past 24 hours or if accompanied by other symptoms of illness.
- **Diarrhea:** 2 or more watery stools within the past 24 hours or any bloody stool.
- **Rash**, especially with fever or itching and there is no documentation of allergic reactions characterized by a rash.

- **Eye discharge or conjunctivitis (pinkeye)** until clear or until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- **Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness, including:**
 - ❖ sluggishness that is more than expected tiredness.
 - ❖ uncontrolled coughing.
 - ❖ inexplicable irritability or persistent crying.
 - ❖ difficult breathing.
 - ❖ severe wheezing.
 - ❖ other unusual signs for the child.
- **Open or oozing sores**, unless properly covered **and** 24 hours have passed since starting antibiotic treatment, if antibiotic treatment is necessary.
- **Head Lice:** Until 24 hours after treatment is begun. Parents/guardians will remove all nits before returning to the classroom. Staff will assist parents/ guardians in methods to remove nits.
- **Scabies:** 24 hours after treatment is begun.
- **Vaccine Preventable Communicable Diseases:** If a child is diagnosed with a vaccine preventable illness, the program will follow health department rules for exclusion of the child and any child not immunized against the disease.

Following exclusion, children are readmitted to the program **24 hours** after they no longer have any of the above symptoms, (without the use of fever reducing medication) OR with a release from a health care provider and/or Public Health exclusion guidelines for early childhood programs are met.

Children with any of the above symptoms/conditions are separated from the group and cared for in the teacher or director's office. Parent/guardian or emergency contact is notified to pick up child.

Communicable disease and other exclusion incidents will be noted in child's file.

Staff members follow the same exclusion criteria as children. Food prep staff may have additional criteria.

These policies reflect Community Action Team Head Start, AAP standards, Oregon Child Care Division Standards and Healthy Child Care America Guidelines.