

Sickness Policy

If your Child Becomes Sick at school

If your child is sent home sick, or does not attend elementary school, parents are required to inform **Small Steps Childcare Centre** prior to 1:00pm. Our transportation route is only effective if we are not searching for children who are absent. If you do not inform us ahead of time you will be charged a failure to inform fee as it can interrupt the pickup of other children who are on the same route. You can always leave a message on the answering machine. 604- 467-6014, email, post on Lillio or post on the Facebook wall.

If Your Child Becomes Sick at daycare

The teachers will notify the parent/guardian immediately. The child must be picked up promptly. If the parents cannot be reached, the child's emergency contacts will be called. When a child is sent home for illness, the parents may be given a Physician's Permission to Return Form or be asked to provide a doctor's note to be completed by the child's physician before their return to the program.

When Will Children Be Sent Home?

The decision to send a child home is based on the symptoms a child is showing (see the following) and especially on how the child is acting. Behaviour is the key indicator of a child's health. A child who is unable to participate in normal group activities will be sent home. Although a mildly ill child may seem well at home, that same child may be unable to handle the stimulation of the group care setting and will be sent home.

A child will be sent home if any of the following are present:

- Child is unable to participate comfortably in group care
- Child requires a greater care need than the teachers can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children in the classroom
- Child shows signs of possible severe illness: Lethargy, Irritability, Persistent, Crying, difficulty breathing
- Child has a fever, which is defined as follows: Ear temp \geq 100oF

When A Child Is Sent Home

- Teachers will notify the parents immediately when a child is ill. A child should be picked up immediately upon receiving a call from the Centre. If a parent cannot be reached within an hour, the emergency contacts will be notified to pick up the child.

The child is to remain out of group care until:

- Fever-free
AND
- The doctor has stated in writing that it is safe for that child and for the other children in the room if the child returns OR the child is symptom-free for at least 24 hours

Fevers

Because fevers are an important indicator of illness, children with an ear temperature of 100F or higher will be sent home and must remain out of group care until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours (without Tylenol® or other fever-reducing medication).

During the course of an identified outbreak of any communicable illness (such as Rotavirus, for example) at the Centre, a child may be sent (or kept) home if they are determined to be contributing to the transmission of the illness at the program. The child may be readmitted when the risk of transmission is no longer present.

For Secondary Infections (such as ear infections):

A child may return to group care ONLY if the child has been diagnosed by a physician as safe (for the child and the other children in the classroom) to return to group care AND there is no fever present without Tylenol (no 24-hour waiting period required). Child must be well enough to participate in group care

Lice

Occasionally lice does go around the elementary schools and eventually the daycare. Unlike the schools we have a policy that your child must have one treatment before returning. We will send your child home if we suspect that your child has lice or we see any evidence. Whenever a child's health is questionable, the parents will be notified and asked to be "on call" in case the child needs to be sent home.

Pre-Existing Conditions

If a child is showing symptoms of illness, it will be assumed the symptoms are caused by illness unless we have written documentation in the child's file that suggests another reason for the symptoms. Examples: gastro esophageal reflux (vomiting due to a physical problem with the esophagus and stomach) or diarrhea associated with lactose intolerance.

Medications at the Centre

All medicines are stored and dispensed by a teacher. No medicines should be stored in the child's belongings at any time. Medicines requiring refrigeration will be stored in a locked box in the refrigerator. Please give the medication to a teacher and fill out a Medication Form located online on our website under FORMS (password shoes)

Prescription Medications

Once a doctor diagnoses a child as safe to return to group care, **Small Steps Childcare Centre** teachers will dispense the child's prescription medication only if:

- The medication Prescription is Medication in its original consent container
- The administration form is completed. Medication Form located online on our website under FORMS (password shoes)

Over-the-Counter Medicines

At the parent's request, the teachers of **Small Steps Childcare Centre** will administer certain over-the-counter medications (such as Bnedryl) for no more than 3 consecutive days within any given week if all of the following conditions are met:

- Child has been given the medication on a prior occasion
- The over-the-counter medication consent form is completed and signed by the parent
- Medicine is in its original container and clearly labelled with the child's name
- Dosage conforms to the guidelines for the child's age/weight

Fever reducing medicines will not be given unless a note from physician is provided

Dosage will be verified by the supervisor on site. Medications must be supplied by the parents as needed.

Please inform the teachers if you have given your child medicine in the morning so teachers may be aware of any changes in your child.

Masking a child's symptoms with over-the-counter medication (e.g., Tylenol) before care will be grounds for termination.

Please speak with the staff regarding the period your child will be required to stay home before returning to the childcare centre.

Small Steps Childcare Centre Reserves the right to refuse to dispense any medication.

Undiagnosed Symptoms of Illness

Your child will be sent home if any of the following symptoms are present

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (2 or more times in 24 hours),
- Rash
- Or other symptoms of illness: increased irritability, decreased appetite, decreased activity, constant need of one-on-one adult attention

To return your child must be symptom-free AND fever-free (without Tylenol or other fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours)

Sickness Summary

If your child requires any medication, we need you to fill out a form located on our website under FORMS (password shoes). Medication can be stored in the fridge. Staff will administer any medication.

Sickness is inevitable but we try to keep it at bay by requiring that children stay home when they are ill. We ask that your child has been symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication. Illness can spread quickly, and we require that you are prompt to pick up your child if he/she is ill. We will only medicate Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen for pain and not fever. Masking your child's

symptoms is grounds for expulsion from our centre; please inform us if your child has received any form of medication. We can administer antibiotics with written consent.

If your child has lice, we require that your child stay home until your child has had at least one treatment. In order to contain an outbreak, we will send your child home if we suspect your child has lice. Please inform the centre if your child has lice so we may inform other parents to look for signs.