

Health Policy Guide

The health and well-being of your child is important to us. Out of concern for all the children at The Neighborhood Preschool we ask you to please read and follow our Health Policy carefully.

Every child attending The Neighborhood Preschool must have a complete medical health form signed by a physician, including an immunization record and results of a tuberculin test. The Connecticut Department of Health requires children to be immunized against measles, polio, rubella (German measles), diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, Hepatitis A, Influenza, and HIB.

Please remember that infections spread easily in group environments. Please think of the health of the other children, staff, and parents, and do not send a child who is ill to the school. Notify staff immediately if your child has been diagnosed as having any communicable or infectious disease. If you are unsure whether an illness is contagious - notify the staff anyway.

If your child becomes ill at The Neighborhood Preschool, you will be called to pick him or her up, or to send an authorized alternate. Your child will be isolated from the group and someone will stay with him or her until you arrive. The staff will make the final decision as to whether your child is well enough to participate in the group's activities on any given day.

If your child is unable to keep up with the group, shows unusual crankiness, demands one-on-one care because of illness, shows signs of continuing listlessness, or loss of appetite, you will be asked to pick up your child.

After an illness, a child returning to school must be feeling well enough to participate in all activities and daily routines including outdoor play. A child who is too sick to go outside is considered too sick to be in school. We consider outdoor play to be an important part of every day. Children benefit from fresh air, sunshine, and the freedom to play outside in every season of the year.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2000 RedBook—Report of the Committee on Infectious Disease), children should be excluded from the child care setting for the following reasons:

Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in the program activities.

Illness that results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.

Any of the following conditions: fever, lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or any other symptoms of possible serious illness.

The following lists some of the most common illnesses and provides guidelines for when the child may return to school.

FEVER: Temperature should be normal for 24 hours without fever reducing products for all children. (Temperature should not be above 100 (oral), 100 (rectal) or 99 (axillary))

VOMITING: Must not vomit within the 24 hour period prior to returning.

DIARRHEA: No diarrhea within previous 24 hours.

NASAL DISCHARGE AND COUGH: If child has discolored and/or uncontrolled nasal discharge or productive cough, child must be seen by physician before he or she returns to school.

CONJUNCTIVITIS: Child must be free of ANY eye discharge. If a bacterial infection, child must be treated for a minimum of 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

STREP THROAT: Children with diagnosed strep may return to school when afebrile (without fever) and after a minimum of 24 hours with antibiotic treatment.

EAR INFECTION: Children with a diagnosed ear infection may return to school after a minimum of 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, afebrile, and pain free.

CHICKEN POX: The child may return to school when all lesions are completely crusted over, usually 10-14 days after onset.

IMPETIGO: The child may return after 24 hours of antibiotic therapy.

PARASITES: Scabies –After treatment is completed.

Head Lice –After the first treatment. Personal clothing and toys in Child must be removed and laundered as recommended.

Pinworms –After treatment and cleared by a physician.

COLD SORE: Child may return when the sore is healed.

RASHES: If the rash occurs with fever or other symptoms of illness, a physician must determine if the rash is non-communicable or the child needs to be excluded until the rash resolves.

MEDICATION: Parents are always welcome to come and administer medication.

Medication must not be placed in bottle or lunch boxes.