

Love N' Laughter Illness Policy

When is a child too sick to be in a child care setting?

Children do get sick despite all our best efforts to keep them healthy. It is important for child care facilities to have a clear policy outlining what the facility will do and what the parent should do if the child becomes ill when in care.

Caregiver's responsibilities include:

- Give a copy of your policy to parents/guardians when a child is enrolled.
- Help the parent/guardian with suggestions for alternative care when their child is too ill to be in your care.
- Clearly communicate when the child is too ill to attend child care.

Parent/Guardian's responsibilities include:

- Provide up-to-date emergency phone numbers.
- Promptly pick up your ill child.
- Consult with family physician about diagnosis and care. Be sure to ask the doctor to share if there are any concerns for the other children in child care.
- Have alternate care plans in place to help make this situation less stressful when your child is ill.

If children exhibit any of the following symptoms, they must be sent home:

- Diarrhea - more than one runny, watery, or bloody stool.
- Severe coughing - child gets red or blue in the face or makes high-pitched whooping sound after coughing.
- Difficult or rapid breathing (especially in infants under six months).
- Yellowish skin or eyes.
- Body rash with fever.
- Pinkeye - tears, redness of the eyelid lining, irritation, followed by swelling or discharge of pus.
- Unusual spots or rashes.
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing.
- An infected skin patch(es) - crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas of the skin.
- Unusually dark, tea-colored urine.
- Gray or white stool.
- Fever over 100 F by mouth or 99 F under the arm.
- Headache and stiff neck.
- Vomiting more than once.
- Severe itching of the body or scalp or scratching of the scalp - may be symptoms of lice.

If you see symptoms requiring removal of a child from your child care setting, you should:

- Immediately separate the child from the other children.
- Contact the parents to pick up the child.
- Continue to observe the child for other symptoms.