

Dear Parents,

To help keep our families and staff as healthy as possible during the upcoming months, here are a few reminders of our DCFS requirements per the state.

Children should be excluded from the Center if...

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.
2. The illness results in a greater care needed than the childcare staff can provide, without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
3. State law requires that we notify parents of children who have been exposed to certain contagious diseases. Please notify us if your child becomes infected so a note can be posted. These notes are confidential and do not give names.

Note: A low-grade fever in and of itself is not means for exclusion. However, once the fever reaches 100 degrees under the arm or 101 in the ear, your child will be required to go home and cannot be admitted to the center until the fever is below 100 degrees (under arm) or 101 (ear) or without fever reducing medicine.

Siblings & Co. policy also requires a child with a fever over 100 or 101 to be excluded from the center for 24 hours. We understand this can cause disruption with work schedules; however we must do our best to keep it from spreading and for your child to heal before returning.

At the end of the day, we must follow our DCFS policies. We want to keep everyone healthy as possible and appreciate your cooperation when your child is ill.

Common Scenarios:

1. A child has a fever greater than 100 under the arm and is sent home. The parent asks if they may return tomorrow?
 - a. All children must be excluded until they are fever free for 24 hours, but they may return once they no longer have a fever and do not require fever reducing meds to keep it down.

2. A parent is called because a child has a low grade temp of a 99.5 with coughing, and running nose. The child is not wanting to participate in any activities and only wants to be comforted.
 - a. If the child's illness is preventing the teacher to still provide quality care to the remainder of the class, we will ask for pick up arrangements to be made. The child may return the next day if symptoms are no longer present.

3. A child is interacting like normal, but the teacher notices they feel warm and when temp is taken, the child has a 99.8 under the arm.
 - a. The parent will be given a courtesy call but the child is not required to be excluded from the center unless the temp under the arm reaches 100 or greater. The teacher will continue to check the temp and call the parent with any changes. In the event the temp continues to rise, the child must be excluded until fever free.

4. A child is brought in with goopy, red eyes and has not been to the doctor. Parents ask to keep them notified throughout the morning.
 - a. If the case is severe, we ask that you schedule an appointment before we can allow the child into the center.
 - b. If the case does not seem severe, we will monitor throughout the morning but ask that you make an appointment just to be safe. If it is diagnosed as pink eye, the child may return 24 hours after drops have been applied.

5. A child has a rash on the body.
 - a. If the child has a fever of any kind combined with a rash, they are to be excluded until doctor has said it's not infectious.
 - b. If child does not have a fever, we ask that the rash be monitored and it will be the director's call on whether the child can remain at the center.