

North Shore Early Childhood Center, Inc.
440 Round Hill Road
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577



Infection Control Policy

At some time during the year there is a possibility your child may become ill. This letter is to help you understand how to deal with illness when your child is enrolled in our program. North Shore Early Childhood Center's goal is to help facilitate your child's recovery while protecting others from infection.

For most mild illnesses your child may continue to attend child care, but we will ask that you supply clean bedding daily. However, if the illness is listed in the Exclusion Policy, the parent must provide alternative child care. The attached guidelines for exclusion were determined by the Department of Health Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Medical Committee of the Child Care Council. Our teachers do not have the medical knowledge to allow deviation from these guidelines.

We strongly suggest that you prepare for the sick care of your child ahead of time, well before it is needed. Alternative arrangements must be made when your child is ill and you are unable to stay at home with your child.

Our staff will be sensitive to your child's health during the day. Our goal is to prevent the spread of illness to healthy children. Every working parent is depending on the cooperation of other parents, and this health policy, to maintain a safe environment.

- 1. Have an alternative plan for when your child is ill.**
- 2. Contact your child's physician when your child is ill. Please ask for a doctor's note, indicating the diagnosis and the date of return. If your child has a communicable disease you *must* have a doctor's note in order for them to return to the center. We may need to contact the physician, if clarification is necessary.**
- 3. Maintain your child's immunization record and schedule regular checkups. Every child in the center must have a yearly medical exam as per state regulations. A copy of updated immunizations and the yearly medical *must* be on file at North Shore Early Childhood Center, Inc. North Shore Early Childhood Center recommends the use of the center's medical forms.**
- 4. Keep your emergency telephone numbers and your current work numbers up to date at all times.**

Parents are the best judge of symptoms that may warn of an impending illness. If your child is cranky, listless, or feeling generalized discomfort (sore throat, headache, earache etc.) she/he may be getting an illness, and a day of rest might help restore them to full health.

To help make your child more comfortable, and as another safeguard to the health of our children and staff, please let the center know the diagnosis of your child's symptoms whenever you take your child to the doctor. In order to send letters about infectious illness to our families we must have confirmation from your pediatrician in writing. Every child in our care benefits when sick children are kept at home. We all need to work together to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone at North Shore Early Childhood Center, Inc. Thank you for your cooperation.

Guidelines for Exclusion of Children from Child Care

1. Signs of possible moderate or severe illness; including unusual lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing and/or inability to participate in a group setting.
2. A child exhibiting a fever of 101°F or more, using the ear probe thermometer, must be excluded for a minimum of 24 hrs. ****Please note revision page for children under 18months****
3. Persistent, frequent cough that interferes with the child's activities.
4. Uncontrolled diarrhea--defined as an increase in the number of stools compared with the child's normal pattern with increased stool water and/or decreased form (diarrhea that cannot be contained within diapers or toilet use). To be excluded until the diarrhea stops and/or a minimum of 24 hours.
5. Effortful vomiting; unless the vomiting is determined to be non-disease related and the child is not in danger of dehydration excluded until vomiting has ceased for 24 hrs.
6. Rash with fever or behavior change, or a rash that is possibly infectious, to be excluded until cessation of fever and a health care professional determines the condition to be noninfectious.
7. Chicken pox excluded for 6 days after onset of rash or until all lesions have dried and crusted.
8. Strep throat/scarlet fever excluded until 24 hrs. after treatment has been initiated.
9. Impetigo excluded until 24 hrs. after treatment has been initiated.
10. Ringworm (head, body, genitals or feet infection) excluded until 48 hrs. after treatment has been initiated.
11. Scabies/head lice allowed to return to child care the morning after their first treatment.
12. Purulent conjunctivitis ("pink eye") - defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge often with matted eyelid after sleep and including a child with eye pain or redness of the eyelid or skin surrounding the eye excluded until 24 hrs. after treatment has been initiated.
13. Mouth sores associated with an inability of the child to control his saliva excluded until a health care professional determines the condition to be noninfectious.
14. Pertussis (whooping cough) until 5 days of appropriate antibiotics have been completed.
15. Mumps - until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
16. Hepatitis A- until 1 week after onset of illness or as directed by the health department when immune serum globulin has been administered to appropriate children and staff.
17. Measles- until 6 days after onset of rash.
18. Rubella- until 6 days after onset of rash.
19. Unspecified respiratory illnesses- If the illness has a specified cause that requires exclusion as determined by other specific performance standards on this list, or if the illness limits the child's participation in child care activities or results in greater care than can be provided by the staff without compromising the health and safety of other children.
20. Shingles - If the sores cannot be covered by a dressing or clothing, or until they are crusted.
21. Herpetic Gingivostomatitis- If the child cannot control oral secretions.
22. Failure to comply with New York State Immunization Laws and/or yearly medical exams.

Please read the attached policy and keep it on hand as a reference.

Please return ONLY this part to North Shore Early Childhood Center, Inc.:

I, _____ (parent/guardian) of _____

and I, _____ (parent/guardian) of _____

have read in full the Infection Control and Exclusion Policies.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised May 2011