

# Health Policy

There are many factors involved in ensuring a child's optimum growth and development; good health is a particularly important one. Children who are ill require a relaxed atmosphere and more individual attention than the Centre can provide.

When choosing "group" care, parents/guardians must realize they will be restricted in the use of the daycare if their child is sick. In a daycare centre, illnesses travel fast. If your child is sick or not feeling well, please refrain from bringing him/her to daycare until they are well again. Keep in mind the children attending daycare are expected to participate in a variety of play experiences.

It is understood that keeping a sick child home can mean a parent might miss valuable work hours. Please consider what your options are for alternate care if it is difficult for you to leave your work.

If a child requires medication to be administered, a daycare medication form will be provided whereby written authorization must be given by a parent/guardian. This permits and provides the educators the necessary information to administer any medication. Educators will only dispense medication(s) listed on this form and is to be filled out completely and precisely. An educator will insist that you get your physician's approval:

- if you wish the dosage to be given to your child is different than the one indicated on the package, or
- if there is a concern about the number of consecutive days and times your child receives a particular medication.

We must ensure that all precautions are taken with the children in our care.

If your child becomes ill during the day, we will contact either parent/guardian right away. If we cannot reach you, the alternate person(s) on the registration form will be contacted to ensure that your child receives prompt, appropriate medical attention.

Staff have the right to refuse admission to a child who appears to be too ill to attend daycare. If your child cannot participate in our daily program (i.e. outside play, group activities etc.) then he/she is not permitted at daycare. We ask you to respect staff's decision when asked to pick up your child due to illness. Our concern is to provide a healthy, safe environment for all children to enjoy.

**Please note, the criteria for exclusion listed on the following page are recommended by the Vancouver Island Health Authority. These criteria may differ in some respects**

from your physician's opinion, primarily because these criteria are designed for children participating in group care.

#### CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE EXCLUDED FROM DAYCARE

- **Acute cold:** Contagious with obvious discharge of infected green, yellow or reddish brown mucus – return when discharge has subsided.
- **Cough:** 3-5 times per hour, and especially if choking and/or vomiting accompanies the cough. Child may return when coughing has subsided.
- **Fever:** 38<sup>0</sup>C (100.4F) or over – may return when fever has remained at 37<sup>0</sup> (98.6F) for 24 hours without the aid of medication, and the child has not developed a secondary infection.
- **Vomiting:** Return after 24 hours of last bout of sickness.
- **Diarrhea:** Must be symptom free for 24 hours and have had one solid bowel movement.
- **Antibiotic:** Return after 24 hours since first taken.
- **Infected skin or eyes:** A doctor must examine undiagnosed skin irritations, and medical clearance for return is obtained. Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is very contagious and must be treated and eyes clear before the child may return.
- **Ear aches and Infections:** Because VIHA says untreated ear infections can lead to hearing loss and are potentially infectious, we require children to see a Doctor for direction and ask that children stay home for a minimum of 24 hours with or without antibiotic medication. This allows for the children to be monitored and assessed. Children may return when symptoms such as fever and ear tugging have subsided.
- **Lice:** A child may return once he/she has been treated with an effective treatment and **all lice and nits** have been combed or picked out of hair. Follow up shampooing must be administered to complete treatment.
- **Communicable Diseases:** Communicable diseases such as chicken pox and measles must be reported to the Daycare staff as soon as they are diagnosed. The duration of the child's treatment and exclusion from daycare will depend on VIHA's Communicable Disease recommendations which staff will be able to provide.