

# BRIGHT HORIZONS FAMILY SOLUTIONS

## CHILD ILLNESS POLICY

Our Child Illness Policy is based on the Model Health Care Policies developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Bright Horizons Family Solutions understands that it is difficult for a parent/guardian to leave or miss work; therefore it is suggested that alternative arrangements be made for occasions when children must remain at home or be picked up due to illness. Exclusion from the center is sometimes necessary to reduce the transmission of illness or because the center is not able to adequately meet the needs of the child.

Mild illness is common among children. Because with many conditions, children spread infectious agents before showing any symptoms, exclusion serves no purpose as long as we can keep them comfortable throughout the day. These children do not represent any harm to other children.

Children should be excluded from the child care setting for the following reasons (this list covers most common illnesses, but is not inclusive of all reasons for exclusion):

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than our faculty can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- **Fever** (100° axillary, 101° orally, 102° aural (ear)\* accompanied by other symptoms, i.e., lethargy, irritability, constant crying, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting.

***\*Infants less than 4 months of age will be excluded if they have a fever of 100° axillary or 101° aural (ear) and should receive medical attention as soon as possible.***

***\*Any child with a fever of 105° will be excluded and should receive medical attention as soon as possible.***

- **Diarrhea-** stools with blood or mucous, and/or uncontrolled, unformed stools that cannot be contained in a diaper/underwear or toilet.
- **Vomiting-** green or bloody, and/or 2 or more times during the previous 24 hours.
- **Mouth sores** associated with drooling.
- **Rash with fever or behavioral changes**, unless a physician has determined it is not a communicable disease.
- **Purulent conjunctivitis** (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge), until on antibiotics for 24 hours.

- **Impetigo**, until 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Strep throat**, until 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Head lice**, until after treatment has begun and all nits are removed.
- **Scabies**, until 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Chickenpox**, until all lesions have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)**, until 5 days of treatment with appropriate antibiotics.
- **Hepatitis A virus**, until 1 week after onset of illness, after immune globulin has been administered.

We ask that for your child's comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, children are picked up within 1.5 hours of notification. Children need to remain home for 24 hours without symptoms before returning to the center. In the case of a (suspected) contagious illness or continuing symptoms, a doctor's note may be required before returning.

Children who have been excluded, may return:

- When they are free of fever, vomiting and diarrhea for a full 24 hours.
- When they have been treated with an antibiotic for a full 24 hours.
- When they are able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.
- The child must be free of open, oozing skin conditions and drooling (not related to teething) unless:
  1. A health care provider signs a note stating that the child's condition is not contagious, and
  2. The involved areas can be covered by a bandage without seepage of drainage through the bandage.

If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, a doctor's note stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return is required.

The final decision whether to exclude a child from the program will be made by the child care center.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date