

Illness Policy for WilderNest

Ensuring the Health and Safety of Children

General Policy Overview

Our family daycare prioritizes the well-being of children and educators. We have established a stringent illness policy to prevent the spread of infections. Parents are required to inform the daycare if their child is unwell, and children showing symptoms of illness must be kept at home.

Symptoms Requiring Exclusion

Children should be excluded from daycare if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 38°C or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Severe cough or difficulty breathing
- Unexplained rashes or skin infections
- Eye infections (e.g., conjunctivitis)
- Severe sore throat or swollen glands
- Any other symptoms indicating a contagious illness

Procedure for Illness at Daycare

If a child becomes ill while at daycare, the following steps will be taken:

- The child will be separated from other children to prevent the spread of illness.
- Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child.
- Caregivers will monitor the child's symptoms and provide comfort until the parent arrives.

Guidelines for Returning to Daycare

Children may return to daycare under the following conditions:

- They have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.
- They have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours if diagnosed with a bacterial infection.

Specific Illness Guidelines

Certain illnesses have specific guidelines for exclusion and return:

- Chickenpox: Children should stay home until all blisters have crusted over, usually 5-7 days.
- Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease: Children can return once fever-free for 24 hours and no new sores have appeared.
- Head Lice: Children are allowed to return after appropriate treatment and no live lice are found.
- Influenza: Children should remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

Preventive Measures

To minimize the spread of illness, WilderNest implements the following preventive measures:

- Regular handwashing with soap and water
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of toys, surfaces, and common areas
- Encouraging proper cough and sneeze etiquette
- Ensuring proper ventilation in indoor spaces
- Promoting healthy habits such as balanced nutrition and adequate rest

Communication with Parents

Effective communication with parents is essential for managing illness in daycare. We provide the following:

- Regular updates on any outbreaks or illnesses within the daycare
- Clear instructions on when to keep children home and when they can return
- Information on preventive measures and health guidelines

Emergency Contacts and Medical Care

In case of a medical emergency, we have the following protocols in place:

- Immediate contact with emergency services if necessary
- Notification of parents or guardians
- Providing first aid and comfort to the child until help arrives