

## SICK CHILD POLICY:

Children are expected to come to school free of communicable diseases and be able and willing to participate in the normal activities of his or her class. Should your child develop any type of communicable disease, please notify BRIDGES PRESCHOOL as soon as possible.

Should your child be sick and unable to attend school, it is the parent's responsibility to call the school on the day of the absence to inform school personal as to the reason for the child's absence. If the child has a communicable disease/and or something contagious, the parents of the other children in the classroom will be advised in writing of what the disease is and what signs to look for in their child. Information sheets on the particular disease/condition may be distributed to classroom parents.

The Teacher will greet your child during drop off, and she will give your child a quick health check. She will notice, just as she would a new haircut or new pair of sneakers, the following:

- Activity level (sluggish, sleepy, etc.)
- Breathing difficulties
- Skin color (pale, flush)
- Severe coughing
- Rashes
- Swelling or bruises
- Discharge from the nose(yellow or green), ears or eyes
- General mood (happy, sad, cranky)

If the teacher has any concerns about how the child looks or feels, she will discuss them with the parent right then. If she feels the child is too sick to remain in school, she will inform the parent. Teachers will refuse to accept any child who is considered to have a contagious disease, i.e.: chicken pox, strep throat, diarrhea, conjunctivitis (pink eye). Children with a fever, green or yellow discharge from the nose, or other symptoms of illness may also be excluded from school.

If a child develops any symptoms during the school day, the teacher (or assistant) will bring the child to the office. The director/assistant director will take the child's temperature (if necessary) and decide whether the child needs to be sent home. If the child is to be sent home, the child will be kept in the office and the parent will be contacted immediately. An assistant may be asked to stay with the child until the parent picks up.

*If a student is sent home with symptoms the child will need to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to daycare.* The symptoms typically covered will include, but not be limited to:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash
- Persistent cough
- A fever over a certain temperature (typically 101.0F)
- Obvious contagious conditions such as head lice or pink eye

This 24-hour policy is designed for the sick child's protection, as well as for others in the center. If a child is showing symptoms of an illness, but a doctor's note is provided saying the child is not contagious, the director or assistant director will then make the determination as to whether the child will be permitted to return.

If symptoms of a communicable disease (see list below) are observed during school time, the parent will be contacted and asked to pick up the child immediately. The child will be kept in the office until he or she is picked up. Children will be allowed to return to school once symptoms are no longer present or when a written doctor's statement is received that the child's illness is no longer communicable.

- Severe coughing, causing child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- A stiff neck
- Diarrhea
- A temperature of 100° F or higher taken by the axillary method (101° orally) when in combination with other sign of illness
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Untreated infected skin patch(es)
- Head lice
- Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool and yellowish skin or eyes
- Any other unusual sign or symptom of illness.