

Signs of Illness Protocol

Starting Blocks' goal is to ensure a safe and healthy facility at all times. Staff members are responsible for recognizing signs of illness in a student and reducing the spread of sickness to other students and staff members. A sign of illness is recognized as any of the following:

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- Illness that poses a risk of spreading harmful disease to others.
- Fever (100° or higher)*, behavior change or other signs and symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, irritability, constant crying, or difficulty breathing.
- Diarrhea — more watery stools or decreased form of stool that is not associated with change of diet. Exclusion is required for all diapered children whose stool is not contained in the diaper, and toilet-trained children if the diarrhea is causing “accidents.” Diapered children with diarrhea will be excluded if the stool frequency exceeds two or more stools above normal for that child.
- Vomiting in the previous 24 hours unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- Mouth sores with drooling unless the child's medical provider states that the child is noninfectious.
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours or intermittent abdominal pain associated with fever, dehydration, or other signs of illness.
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes, until a medical provider 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 been started.
- Strep throat (or other streptococcal infection) until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Head lice until after treatment and all nits are removed.
- Rubella, until six days after the rash appears.
- Chicken pox, until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually six days after onset of rash).
- Pertussis (whooping cough), until five days of appropriate antibiotics.

- Mumps, until five days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Measles, until four days after onset of rash.
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak.

We ask that for your child's comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, children be picked up within 1 hour of notification. Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms. Children need to remain home for 24 hours without symptoms before returning to the program. This means that the child needs to remain home from school for the remainder of the day they are sent home and the following day (if a child is sent home on Friday, they may return on Monday), unless Starting Blocks receives a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is not contagious and may return to school. In the case of a (suspected) contagious disease, rash, or continuing symptoms, a note from the child's medical provider 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. – Readmission after diarrhea can occur when diapered children have their stool contained by the diaper (even if stools remain loose) and when toilet-trained children do not have toileting “accidents.”
- They have been treated with an antibiotic for a full 24 hours.
- They are able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.

If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return may be required. The final decision whether to exclude a child from the program due to illness will be made by the school administration.

STARTING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL