

# ST. THOMAS PRESCHOOL ILLNESS POLICY

St. Thomas reserves the right to temporarily deny any child admittance to the school for reasons of obvious illness or to request early departure should symptoms become apparent during the course of the day. Any child who seems unable to participate in our program for any reason will be sent home. This is to ensure the continued good health of everyone in our program. We realize that many of you are working parents, and we try to accommodate you as much as possible. However, for the health and well-being of the children in our care and our staff, we feel it is vital to maintain a strict wellness policy. We ask parents to assist by keeping sick children and/or anyone sick in your home. We do take into consideration your physician's recommendations. Nevertheless, it is up to our discretion when your child may return to school.

## ***When a child may not attend school:***

**Fever:** Children will be sent home if their temperature is 100.4 or higher and must stay home. Children must be free of fever (any temperature above 98.6 degrees) for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. The same policy applies if your child develops a fever at home. They must be fever-free (any temperature above 98.6 degrees) for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

**Rash:** Any rash other than a typical diaper rash or skin irritation will require that child be sent home for an evaluation and diagnosis from their doctor in writing of exactly what it is. They may return to school based on that written doctor's evaluation and clearance that it is not contagious.

If your child has a rash that is not contagious, to ensure transparency, this information needs to be communicated to the office and your child's teachers.

**Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** Children will be sent home if there appears to be an unusual amount of discharge from or irritation to their eye(s) and must stay home the next day for observation. Before returning to school, they will need an evaluation and diagnosis from their doctor in writing exactly what it is. Do not send your child to school if they wake up with red eyes and think that it is unusual.

- If the diagnosis is BACTERIAL CONJUNCTIVITIS, children must have received at least 24 hours of treatment.
- If the diagnosis is VIRAL CONJUNCTIVITIS, your child may return AS LONG AS THERE IS NO DISCHARGE.
- If they do not have "pink eye," we need a doctor's note with a diagnosis and a clearance that it is not contagious.

**Thick White, Green, or Yellow Discharge:** Children will be sent home if they appear to have any thick white, green, or yellow discharge. This is often indicative of an infection, and they must stay home the next day for observation. Before returning to school, they will need an evaluation and diagnosis from their doctor in writing and at least 24 hours of treatment. If, in fact, they do not have an infection, we need a doctor's note with a diagnosis of exactly what it is with a clearance that it is nothing contagious. The Department of Health and most doctors are of the opinion that once on antibiotics for 24 hours; the discharge is no longer contagious even though it may persist for up to two weeks.

**Diarrhea:** Children will be sent home if they have three or more loose bowel movements in one day and must stay home the next day for observation. Before returning to school, (after the day of observation), children must be free from diarrhea for 24 hours with at least 1 regular bowel movement. If your child has one or more loose bowel movements on their first day back, they will again be sent home.

**Vomiting:** Children will be sent home if they vomit and stay home for observation the next day. Before returning to school, (after the day of observation), children must be symptom-free with no vomiting for at least 24 hours. If your child vomits in the morning before coming to school, do not send them to school.

**Persistent Hacking Cough:** Children will be sent home if they have a persistent hacking cough and must stay home the next day for observation. Before returning to school, they will need an evaluation and diagnosis from their doctor in writing and at least 24 hours of treatment. If, in fact, they do not require any treatment, we need a doctor's note with a diagnosis of exactly what it is with a clearance that it is not contagious. Children who have a cough and the doctor has provided permission to return to school will be required to wear a mask.

**Lice:** Children will not be readmitted until treatment has been applied. The Director and/or office staff will evaluate and determine if the child can be readmitted.

### ***Common Cold Policy***

Children suffering from a common cold will be assessed on an individual basis.

St. Thomas reserves the right to make the final exclusion determination due to illness. Any exceptions to our illness policy will require a written note from a licensed health care professional stating that the child is not contagious.