



little PAWS
MONTESSORI

Sick Policy 2023-2024

Health and wellness are of primary concern in our environment. The wellbeing of all members of our community is at the forefront of our decisions. In order to effectively manage infectious disease, vigilance is required. Because of the close proximity and nature of a preschool classroom, it only takes one sick child coming to school to spread a cold or other illness to all the other families and teachers, so do we ask that you respect and abide by the guidelines we have set.

General Advice For When to Keep Your Child at Home

Sick children are not permitted in school. Please do not send a child to school if any of the following symptoms are present, regardless of cause: fever of 100°F or higher, rash, diarrhea, wet cough, persistent sneezing or runny nose, opaque/green mucous, vomiting, sore throat, pink eye, impetigo, pinworms, chickenpox, or lice.

We ask that children be kept at home until a minimum of 24 hours have passed from the last incidence of one of the aforementioned symptoms. If they were ill the previous afternoon or evening, they should not be sent to school the following morning. Following an illness, a child must be well enough to fully participate in all the activities and daily routines. They may need a note from a doctor clearing them to return if

they have been sent home from school for illness. A child may be asked to wear a mask if they have a lingering dry cough.

10 Specific Symptoms that Should Keep Kids Home

1. Colds: There are two big reasons to keep a child home with a cold. Firstly, they are tired and need rest. Having children at school who need to rest or have their nose blown every few minutes means one teacher has to tend to a sick child one-on-one, which causes us to fall out of ratio. Tired kids who don't feel well don't want to participate in classroom activities, nor do they want to sit peacefully and rest all day. When they are here, your child needs to be willing and able to participate in the class and on the playground. Secondly, they are often contagious to others. They may make other children sick, and they may make the teachers sick. It is very difficult to have a successful school day when we all come down with a cold. The best way to all stay healthy is for us each to stay home when we have the symptoms of a cold.
2. Coughs: If a cough keeps your child up all night or worsens when he or she wakens and is more active, they should stay home. They are tired and will not do well in school. If a light, dry cough is the remains of an old cold and they feel otherwise fine with no other symptoms, they can come to school. Please help us by always reminding your child to

cough into their elbow.

3. Ear Infections: They can return once they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
4. Sore Throat: If your child wakes up with a sore throat, try giving them something to drink and see if it improves. If the pain persists, they need to be given a COVID and Strep test.
5. Fever: Children need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. That means if we send them home, they need to stay home the following school day. If they are running only 99 degrees, but seem pale, achy, and tired, keep them home, please.
6. Vomiting: If they vomit, keep them home.
7. Diarrhea: If they have diarrhea, keep them home.
8. Pinkeye: Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. Children can return once they have been on antibiotic drops for 48 hours.

9. Head Lice and Nits: Lice is the parasite, nits are the eggs. All the parasites and nits must be picked out of the children's hair before they return, and they must bring proof of medical lice treatment.

10. Rashes: These include Chicken Pox, Impetigo, and Hand, Foot and Mouth disease. Highly contagious. Please keep them home.

Medicine at School

If a child needs to take medicine while at school, a parent must provide the medicine in its original bottle and clear instructions for dosing, as well as sign an authorization form at drop-off. Depending on the circumstance, we may need a prescription or sign-off from a doctor, so please inquire first with Miss Faith before bringing.

COVID-19 Protocols

If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home for at least 5 days and must present a negative antigen test in order to return to school. If a family member, or anyone else who lives in your child's home, tests positive, your child must stay home for at least 5 days and everyone in your home must present negative antigen tests in order for your child to return to school. If your child is exposed outside of your home, your child will be asked to wear a mask for 5 days while indoors at school.

Pickup Due to Illness

If your child becomes ill at school or is deemed too ill to spend the day at school after being dropped off, a guardian **must** be available to pick them up within 30 minutes of our call. With busy work schedules, consider making a plan with one or two of your emergency contacts to pick up in the event you cannot leave a commitment.

When in doubt about whether your child is too sick to come to school, please keep your child at home. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please feel free to call or text Miss Faith at 415.254.5422 before leaving for school.

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Date: