

Infection Control Policy

It is inevitable that children will get sick, no matter where they are. As children begin to have contact with the world outside that of their own families, they come into contact with germs and bacteria that are foreign to their bodies. This is the way they build immunities. We cannot, nor would we want to, shield a child completely from the outside world. If we did, the natural immunities a child gains through contact with others would not develop and a simple cold could become a serious illness. We do, however, want to protect a child from an unusually high exposure to germs all at once.

In a childcare setting, children come into contact with groups of other children outside their families. It is in this situation that the illness of one child can spread rapidly through the group to other children and staff members if stringent measures to prevent this spread are not taken.

For this reason, the staff at Meadow Brook Child Development Center will take constant precautions to prevent the spread of disease. Many common childhood diseases are contagious. They are spread by germs, which may be spread in several ways. Intestinal tract infections are spread through stools. Respiratory tract infections are spread through coughs, sneezes, and runny noses. Other diseases are spread through direct contact. Careful hand washing by staff and children can eliminate approximately 75 percent of the risk of spreading these illnesses. Other precautions include separating sick children from those who are well, taking extra precautions with diapered or toilet training children, and working to maintain sanitary conditions throughout the center.

You, the parents, can help us in our effort to keep your children healthy. We ask for your cooperation in the following ways.

1. If your child has been exposed to any of the diseases listed, we ask that you notify us of the exposure.

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| Candidiasis | Chickenpox | Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) | Diarrhea |
| Fifth Disease | Coxsackie Virus (Hand/Foot/Mouth) | | Hepatitis A |
| Hepatitis B | Impetigo | Influenza | Head Lice |
| Meningitis | Pharyngitis | Pinworms | Respiratory Infection |
| Salmonella | Scabies | Shigellosis | |

2. If your child shows any of the symptoms listed below, you will be contacted and asked to come immediately to pick up your child. Please help us protect the other children by responding promptly. If the child has any of the following symptoms at home, we ask that you keep him/her out of school until the symptoms are gone or until your physician permits his/her return.

The symptoms include:

- fever – (100 degrees orally) (101 degrees rectally) or higher
- severe coughing – child gets red or blue in the face or makes high pitched croupy or whooping sounds after the coughs
- difficult or rapid breathing
- yellowish skin or eyes
- pinkeye – tears, redness of eyelid lining, followed by swelling and discharge of pus
- unusual spots or rashes
- sore throat or trouble swallowing
- infected skin patches
- crusty, bright yellow, dry, or gummy areas of skin – possibly accompanied by fever
- unusually dark, tea colored urine – especially with a fever
- gray or white stool
- headache and stiff neck
- vomiting
- severe itching of scalp

Parents are to inform the center within 24 hours or the next business day after his child or any other member of the immediate household has developed any reportable communicable disease, as defined by the Stat Board of Health, except for life threatening diseases which must be reported immediately.