



**Paige's of Time**  
Early Learning Center

## Sick Policy

Your child's health and safety is important to us here at Paige's of Time ELC. Limiting the spread of illness and disease is just as important. Children in a group setting are particularly vulnerable to being exposed to germs carrying disease and illness. The center cannot eliminate the spread of disease. We will however try to take appropriate steps to prevent it. Appropriate measures will be taken to reduce the spread such as sanitizing, hand washing, and requesting that children exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness remain at home to avoid jeopardizing the health of others. The staff is responsible for assessing each child at arrival time each day for signs and symptoms of illness. If a child appears ill, the parent/guardian will be asked to take the child home.

### Conditions that require exclusion include: (may not attend, or parent will be called to pick-up child)

- When the child appears to be severely ill, is not responsive, irritable, persistently crying, having difficulty breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash.
- **Fever:**  
(temperature is taken with a temporal artery thermometer and/or a digital thermometer for axillary/armpit).
  1. Temperature of **100.5°F** or above **AND** a behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, or diarrhea). **–or–**
  2. Temperature of **101.0°F** or above, **whether or not other symptoms are present.** **–or–**
  3. For infants less than **2-months of age (8-weeks or younger)**, an unexplained fever should be evaluated by a health professional. For these infants younger than 2-months of age, should get medical advice for temperature **100.5°F** or above, **whether or not other symptoms are present.**
- **Diarrhea**—Exclusion is required for all children with diarrhea (**exceeds 2 stools**) Diarrhea is defined by stool which is occurring more frequently and/or is less formed in consistency than usual in the child, and not associated with changes of diet.
- **Vomiting** 2 or more times in the previous 24-hours.
- **Abdominal pain** that continues for more than 2-hours or intermittent abdominal pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms.
- **Unidentified rash**, until a primary care provider has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- **Skin sores** that are weeping fluid and are on an exposed body surface that cannot be covered with a waterproof dressing.



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Parents/guardians are responsible for making arrangements to pick up a sick child within **1-hour of notification**. If a child has a fever, teachers are instructed to take the child's temperature as first notice and document temperature degree and time taken on an "illness report." At the time the parent/guardian picks up their child, his/her temperature will be taken again and documented on the illness report at time of pick-up. The parent/guardian will be required to sign the form.

Children may be readmitted to the Center following an illness with approval of the Center Director and/or the child's healthcare practitioner. A physician's note will always be required for children with a fever or unidentified rash. A child may not be readmitted to the center until 24-hours after the last sign of fever (**without the aid of medication**), diarrhea, or vomiting.

A written statement from a parent/guardian or physician that the child can return to the center must be presented for any child absent due to illness for three (3) or more consecutive days. Children with head lice may not return to the center without written documentation from the child's healthcare practitioner stating that their return is acceptable.

### **American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) Child Care Recommendations for Exclusion:**

The primary reasons for exclusion from childcare or school are that the condition:

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities
- Results in a need for care that is greater than staff members can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children
- Poses a risk of spread of illness or harmful disease to others (*see list of these conditions below*)

To reduce the risk of becoming sick with the flu, child care providers and all the children being cared for must receive all recommended immunizations, including the **flu vaccine**. The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. This critically important approach puts the health and safety of everyone in the child care setting first. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6-months of age and older, including child care staff.

*Note: Children 6 months through 8 years of age may need two doses spaced one month apart to get the full benefit. These children should receive their first dose as soon as the vaccine is on hand in their community.*

### **Other conditions with specific diagnoses as follows:**

- Streptococcal pharyngitis (i.e., strep throat or other streptococcal infection), until the child has had two doses of a course of an appropriate antibiotic 12-hours apart.
- Head lice, scabies, ringworm until after the first treatment (exclusion is not necessary before the end of the program day). Treatment may occur between the end of the program day and beginning of the next day—not requiring any exclusion.
- Chickenpox (varicella) until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6-days after onset of rash) and no new lesions have showed for at least 24-hours.



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- Rubella, until 7-days after the rash appears.
- Pertussis, until 5-days of appropriate antibiotic treatment (21-days if untreated).
- Mumps, until 5-days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Measles, until 4-days after onset of rash.
- Hepatitis A virus infection, until 1-week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department.

### **Medication**

Parent/guardians may bring medication prescribed by a doctor for their child. This must be handed to the director or teacher in the child's room. Prescription medications must be in their original container. Please note that with the exception of topical sunscreen and diaper ointments, "over the counter" medications cannot be administered by the center staff and should not be sent in. A medication order form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian before any medication, including topical products can be administered.

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