



Ripon Children's Learning Center

Child Illness Policy

Sick or Ill Child Definition

Parents and child care providers share the responsibility for maintaining good health and preventing the spread of contagious diseases in the child care setting. In spite of these efforts, children do get sick.

Any child with a fever over 100.4°F temperature, with no fever reducing medication, AND with behavior change (lethargic, clingy) or other symptoms of illness should not attend the center until the child is symptom free and well enough to participate in all regular center activities. A healthcare professional can provide documentation indicating it is appropriate to have the child in the program with symptoms.

If a child develops a fever or begins to appear ill after arrival at the center the parent / emergency contact will be notified promptly. The parent and administrative staff can formulate a plan of action to meet the needs of the child while the parent decides to have the child picked up.

Parent Notification

Parents (or an emergency contact person if a parent cannot be reached) will be notified of the following health or safety concerns, which are detailed throughout this policy, by telephone, email or text message:

- when the child becomes, ill and must be sent home or is injured seriously enough to require professional medical treatment;
- a child appears to be developing an illness and it might permit time for a parent to make an appointment to see a healthcare professional;
- when a child does not arrive at the center on the scheduled school bus from school and summer school programs;
- when a child has an injury that involves the head (any bump, blow, or jolt to the head);
- seizures;
- consumption of incorrect breast milk;
- consumption of food or drink that contains a child's allergen;
- consumption or contact with poisonous materials;
- administration of incorrect medication

Parents will be notified of any communicable disease or illnesses by a notice posted in the lobby. Signs and symptoms will also be available.

Communicable Disease

When a child is suspected of having a communicable disease the parent or emergency contact will be called. Additionally, the Public Health Department will be notified as required.

When a diagnosis of a communicable disease is made by a healthcare professional, parents are required to alert the administrative staff at the center so other parents can be alerted. Staff will post a notice near the classroom in the center that includes the possible exposure, dates of exposure, and symptoms of the disease, as well as on the parent board. The child's name and classroom will not be posted or otherwise disclosed as it violates RCLC's Confidentiality Policy. The notice shall remain posted for 14 days unless otherwise necessary.

The child shall not return to the center until all symptoms are gone or a health care provider has cleared the child to return to the center.

The Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease chart will be used to determine appropriate exclusion period as required by licensing. The chart is located in the Infant/Toddler space area.

Administrative staff will seek consultation from Fond du Lac Health Department or other local health care professionals for information on communicable diseases as needed.

Observation of Illness or Injury

Upon arrival, each child shall be greeted by the teacher who will observe the child for symptoms signs of illness. Any child with a fever over 100.4F, no fever reducing medication, AND with behavior change (lethargic, clingy) or other signs symptoms of illness including looking or acting ill, the child shall be sent home. If the parent has already left the center, the administrative staff shall notify the parents, or, if they are unavailable, the emergency contact person. The parent or emergency contact needs to pick up the child within one hour after first contact. The center is not licensed to provide care for ill children.

If the decision is made that a child must go home, the child may be isolated or removed from the group of children and watched by member of the staff. In cases of severe illness or a medical emergency, emergency services will be called first, then the parent (or emergency contact) will be notified.

If a child has no specific symptoms of illness but displays significant behavior changes and is uncomfortable and unable to participate in the scheduled activities, the child will be sent home. The administrative staff has the authority to make the final decision.

Any evidence of unusual bruises, contusions, lacerations, or burns found during the informal health check shall be entered in the classroom medical log and reported immediately to the administrative staff. The administrative staff may ask staff to document observations and / or conversations. If there is suspicion of child abuse or neglect; the center will follow mandatory reporting requirements. Please refer to Reporting Procedures of Child Abuse policy.

Exclusions of Illness

RCLC is not equipped to handle mildly ill children. A child will not be allowed to attend the Center for the following reasons:

- The child's illness prevents the child from participating in daily activities, that the center offers for children,
- The child requires more care than the staff can provide without compromising the needs of the other children in the center,
- Keeping the child at the center poses a significant risk to the child or to other children or adults with whom the child will come in contact with. If the staff is uncertain of this risk, the child may be excluded from the center until further evaluation,

Unless otherwise restricted, the child may return to the center when the symptoms of illness disappear and the child is able to participate in the regularly planned activities without the use of fever reducing medicine.

Illness symptoms

A child will not be allowed to attend the center if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Any child with a fever over 100.4F AND with behavior change (lethargic, clingy) or other signs and symptoms of illness including looking or acting ill.
- Diarrhea-when stool frequency exceeds 2 or more loose stools above normal for that child. Child must be diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to daycare.
- The child has no urine output for 8 hours.
- Shows signs of jaundice.
- Vomiting with a fever or vomiting more than two times without a fever.
- Any rash other than a common diaper rash or skin irritation will require that child to 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.
- Scabies, head lice or other insect infestation until 24 hours after treatment is given and no live infestation is present. The Director will make an evaluation and determine if the child can be readmitted in the center.
- Cold / cough symptoms: these may include difficulty breathing, runny nose with yellow or green mucus, stuffy nose, discharge in the eyes or watery eyes, sneezing, chills, tiredness or loss of appetite
- Severe cough with rapid breathing, wheezing (if not already treated), cyanosis (blue color of skin and mucous membranes), inability to catch their breath
- Convulsion or severe injury: emergency care will be called and parents will be notified and action taken accordingly. If a child has a history of seizures, they will have a care plan in place and action will be taken according to that plan.
- A severe injury in which medical attention is needed.
- Communicable disease symptoms listed on the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease Chart. This chart can be located in the Infant Toddler space.

Administrative staff reserves the right to send a child home with or without multiple symptoms if they feel the child is showing signs of being ill. Any child that is sent home from RCLC, must stay home for at least one full business day for observation unless otherwise approved by Administration and may return when they are symptom free without medication.

Any child that shows signs or symptoms of illness should not attend the center until the child is symptom free and well enough to participate in all regular center activities without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

If a child develops a fever or begins to appear ill after arrival at the center the parent/emergency contact will be notified promptly. Parents must pick up the child within one hour of notification that their child is ill.

The parent and administrative staff can formulate a plan of action to meet the needs of the child until they are picked up.

A child will be allowed to attend and participate at the center's programs if they are diagnosed or have any of the following:

- Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.
- A rash that is not listed on the Communicable Disease Chart.

Isolation

An isolation area shall be provided for the care of children who become ill while at the center. If the area is not a separate room, they shall be separated from the space used by the other children until their parent or authorized pick up person can pick them up.

Please sign to acknowledge that you have read and understand the new sick policy.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Child(ren)s names

Thank you for your continued support,
RCLC Administration and Board of Directors

Please tear off this page and return it to our Administration team.