



Illness Policy for Seedlings Academy for Young Learners Updated March 2024

The following policy is established to assure the healthiest environment for all children and teachers at Seedlings Academy. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home to allow them to recuperate, as well as protect the health and safety of the other children and teachers at the school. Likewise, if your child presents any of these symptoms while at school, you will be called and asked to make the necessary arrangements to have your child picked up within the hour. Parents will be alerted via email through Tadpoles, as well as a text/phone call.

One or more of the following criteria are used to determine the need for children to remain at home during short-term illness. Please note that we may request parents to pick up their child for any of the following reasons:

- The child has a temperature at or above 100.4.
- The child does not feel well enough to comfortably participate in the usual daily activities of the classroom.
- The staff cannot care for the child without compromising the health, safety, and care of the other children in the classroom.
- The child has any of the following signs or symptoms that indicate a contagious disease or an immediate need for medical evaluation, including but not limited to: fever, rash, hives, vomiting, diarrhea (watery BM, 2 or more times in a day or multiple days in a row), open sores (i.e. HFM, cold sores, chicken pox), head lice or other infestation, skin infections (i.e. impetigo, staph), deep, productive, or persistent cough, and/or sore throat (strep).

With any of the aforementioned illnesses/symptoms, your child must be symptom free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to Seedlings or present a note from a health professional to return to Seedlings.

Exclusion from Seedlings for the common cold is not required. However, an untreated cold can quickly become an ear infection, sinus infection, bronchitis, etc. If a child has uncontrollable mucous discharge, prolonged discolored mucous, or a constant cough, parents will be asked to have the child examined by a health professional.

In the event that antibiotic treatment is required, the child must have received the treatment for 24 hours before returning to Seedlings. A health professional's note is required in order to return to Seedlings any time that a child is seen by a health professional due to illness or diagnosed with an infectious illness. Parents should notify Seedlings within 24 hours after the child has been diagnosed with a known communicable disease in order to alert parents and staff, per DHS regulations as some communicable diseases must be reported to the local Department of Health. Parents of other children in care who may have been exposed will be informed of the exposure according to the recommendations of the local health department. Confidentiality will be maintained.

"Pink eye", Hand, Foot, and Mouth (HFM), and diarrhea occur frequently in childcare centers. A physician must treat "pink eye", or conjunctivitis, and a health professional's note must accompany the child upon returning to Seedlings. Children diagnosed with Hand, Foot and Mouth will not be permitted to return to Seedlings until no new sores are emerging, all sores are completely scabbed over, and no fever remains. Children with diarrhea must have at least 1 normal stool in the 24 hours prior to returning.

While this policy covers most things we see at Seedlings, the Director reserves the right to override the policy for the sake of Seedlings as a whole.