

THE PARKSIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

53 norwood avenue, upper montclair, nj 07043 (973) 509-7379

ILLNESS POLICY

Dear Parkside Parents:

We have been instructed by the New Jersey State Division of Children and Family Services to clearly state policy regarding illness and our students. Children should not be sent to school if they are sick. This means that if a child is fighting any kind of infection, he or she should not attend school, as most childhood infections are highly contagious. If a child comes to school sick, or becomes ill in school, the state requires us to immediately contact the parent or emergency contact so that the child can be taken home and the spread of infection is limited. Also, a child who has been absent due to illness should not return to school until he or she is completely well (this also means that the child's temperature must remain normal for **at least 24 hours** before he/she returns.

The illnesses we most commonly see include head and chest cold (which cause sneezing, coughing, and a runny nose), nausea, diarrhea, sore throats, headaches, and earaches. However, please refer of the back page containing information that the State has given to us titled, "Policy on the Management of Communicable Diseases" for other symptoms and a list of communicable diseases.

COVID POLICY September 2022

Fever (100.4 or higher) is a symptom of COVID -19. Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 who have tested positive or have not been treated must stay home and away from others for at least 5 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever AND... all other symptoms are gone. On returning to school, the individual must wear a mask for the following 5 days.

Individuals who have symptoms and have tested negative should stay home an away from others for 24 hours after their fever has ended with our the use of fever reducing medications.

*****If your child is absent for *any* reason, please CALL to notify us.*****

Policy on the Management of Communicable Diseases

If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, the child should not attend the center. If such symptoms occur at the center, the child will be removed from the group, and parents will be called to take the child home.

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Acute diarrhea
- Episodes of acute vomiting
- Elevated oral temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Lethargy
- Severe coughing
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
- Skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Stiff neck

Once the child is symptom-free, or has a health care provider's note stating that the child no longer poses a serious health risk to himself/herself or others, the child may return to the center unless contraindicated by local health department or Department of Health.

EXCLUDABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A child or staff member who contracts an excludable communicable disease may not return to the center without a health care provider's note stating that the child presents no risk to himself/herself or others.

Note: If a child has chicken pox, a note from the parent stating that all sores have dried and crusted is required.

If a child is exposed to any excludable disease at the center, parents will be notified in writing.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING GUIDELINES

Some excludable communicable diseases must be reported to the health department by the center. The Department of Health's Reporting Requirements for Communicable Diseases and Work-Related Conditions Quick Reference Guide, a complete list of reportable excludable communicable diseases, can be found at:

http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/reportable_disease_magnet.pdf.