

Illness Health Assessment

We understand that it is difficult for a family member to leave or miss work, but to protect other children; you may not bring a sick child to the center. The center has the right to refuse a child who appears ill. We will do our best to assess each child's condition and use care when calling a parent to pick up his/her child. Early Challenges follows State Licensing and Health Department guidelines for the prevention of the spread of disease. **It is imperative that we all work together to keep our children as healthy and happy as possible. We request that parents do not bring in a child who is unable to meet the demands of their daily schedule (including outdoor play) or who exhibits signs of a contagious illness at home.**

The following is our health assessment list:

SCALP	itching, sores, lice
FACE	general appearance, expression, unusual color
EYES	redness of eyelid or lining, irritation, puffiness, yellowish discharge
EARS	drainage, earache
MOUTH	inside of mouth for redness, spots, sores
THROAT	enlarged, red or irritated tonsils with/without white spots
CHEST	frequent or severe coughing, wheezing, rattles or raspy breathing
SKIN	yellowish skin, unusual spots, rash, bumps, bruises, unusual injuries, crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas/sores, itching
FEVER	feverish appearance and changes in behavior, fever of 101 or higher

Illness Exclusion

You will be called and asked to retrieve your child if your child exhibits any of the following symptoms. This is not an all-inclusive list. We will try to keep your child comfortable but he/she will be excluded from all activities until you arrive.

- **Illness that prevents your child from participating in activities.**
- **Illness that results in greater need for care than we can provide.**
- **Fever (above 100°F under the arm, of or above 101°F in the mouth)**
- **Diarrhea – stools with blood or mucus, and/or uncontrolled, unformed stools that cannot be contained in a diaper/underwear or toilet.**
- **Vomiting – green or bloody, and/or 2 or more times during the previous 24 hours.**
- **Undiagnosed rashes, unless a physician has determined it is not a communicable disease.**
- **Any communicable disease listed on the most recent DH communicable disease chart until designated inclusion**
- **Headaches or other symptoms requiring parental attention**

Return from Illness

Children who have been ill may return when:

- They are free of fever, vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours, without medication.
- They have been treated with an antibiotic for 24 hours.
- They have a written statement from their doctor stating that they are not contagious
- They are able to participate comfortably in all usual activities.
- They are free of open, oozing skin conditions unless:
 - The child's physician signs a note stating that the child's condition is not contagious, and;
 - The involved areas can be covered by a bandage without seepage or drainage through the bandage.
- If a child had a reportable communicable disease, a physician's note stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return to our care is required.
- With impetigo, they may not return until all lesions have dried and a note from the physician advises them to return (usually 3-5 days)
- With chicken pox, they may not return until all scabs have dried and crusted.
- With head lice, they may not return until they have had one medicated shampoo treatment and are NIT FREE
- With conjunctivitis (pink eye), they may not return until on medication for 24 hours.
- With scabies, they may not return until six to twelve hours after first medical treatment.

Early Challenges requires a doctor's note stating that your child does not have a communicable disease in order for him/her to return to the center when sent home with symptoms of a communicable disease, or he/she cannot return unless child is symptom free for 24 hours.

Exposure Notification

We are required to inform parents of exposure to communicable disease listed on the Department of Health's communicable disease chart. **In order to conform to this policy, parents MUST inform administration within 24 hours when your child or a member of your household is diagnosed or exposed to a communicable disease.** Your name and your child's name will be kept confidential; however, Early Challenges will post the classroom that has been exposed on the exposure notice located on the Parent Board in the entry way to the left of the code box. If parents fail to inform us, we are unable to do our part to help prevent the spread of diseases.

Allergy Prevention

Families are expected to notify us regarding children's food and environmental allergies. Families of children with diagnosed allergies are required to provide us a letter detailing the child's symptoms, reactions, treatments and care. A list of the children's allergies will be posted in the classroom, office, and kitchen. We are trained to familiarize ourselves and consult the list to avoid the potential of exposing children to substances to which they have known allergies.