

Discovery Developmental Center Health Policy Standards

The health and welfare of both children and staff are of central importance in DDC operations. In addition, as a licensed, regulated child care center in Montana, certain regulations must be followed. The following guidelines have been developed to help prevent children in our center from contracting and/or spreading viral or bacterial infections and illnesses. While these guidelines in no way ensure your child will not get ill because of their attendance at Discovery, we believe adherence to this policy can reduce the likelihood of epidemics.

Children who display the symptoms below should be kept at home. We request a phone call when children will not be attending so we can track trends at the center. Any child who displays these symptoms while at the center will be expected to be taken home within 1 HOUR after being contacted by staff. In the event we are unable to contact a child's parent and/or guardian, staff will contact the emergency contact person found in child's file to pick up the child.

To briefly differentiate between a viral and bacterial illness – **viral infections do not require treatment with antibiotics; bacterial infections respond to and/or may require antibiotics. However, both types are highly contagious.** The following symptoms indicate that your child will need to see a physician and/ or rest at home. We reserve the right to request a Physician's note before allowing a child to return.

- Temperature of 101 degrees or higher within the past 24 hours.
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours (includes 2 or more episodes).
- Diarrhea / watery stools that cannot be contained by diaper or clothing.
- Generalized rashes, including those covering multiple parts of body, must be evaluated by health care provider to determine cause. This includes skin eruptions that are oozing, with or without a fever.
- Head Lice - may return only after no nits have been found 24 hours after 1st treatment. DDC staff reserve the right to request doctor's note stating the child is nit-free during an epidemic.
- Chickenpox – Skin sores must be dried up before returning, which usually takes 5 to 7 days after onset.
- Children with symptoms of severe illness, such as uncontrolled coughing, breathing difficulty or wheezing, stiff neck, irritability, poor food or fluid intake, or a seizure, must be evaluated by a health care provider before they may return to the center.
- Bacterial infections that must be treated with antibiotics for 24 hour before return to the center:
 - Strep throat
 - Scarlet fever
 - Impetigo
 - Bacterial conjunctivitis (pinkeye)
 - Bronchitis
 - Ear infections
- Other circumstances when children should remain at home are unusual lethargy, irritability, or persistent crying (behavior totally out of character for your child); illness which requires 1 on 1 care; illness which prevents child from participating in normal activities.

When a child returns to school it will be expected they are well enough to play outside, with the exception of pneumonia, surgery, or a written note from your doctor. Outdoor play is an important part of a child's growth and development and it is a vital part of every day at Discovery.

Medication Administration

Only designated staff who have completed Montana's Medical Administration training may administer medication to children. A Medication Authorization form is required for each incident and/or medication. These forms must be completed and signed by parent / guardian. These forms include the following information:

- **For prescriptions** - The name of the health professional who ordered the medication must be on the container, as well as the date the prescription was filled and the expiration date; medication name and reason for giving; dosage; start and end dates; times to be given; last dosage received, route to be given, and storage instructions.
- **For non-prescription medications** - Medication brought for a child must be in the original bottle, properly labeled with the child's name, name of medication and reason for giving; dosage; start and end dates; times to be given; last dosage received; route to be given; and storage instructions. Nonprescription medications may be dispensed by staff only at the dose, duration, and method of administration specified on the manufacturer's label for the age and / or weight of the child. Discovery will not provide or stock any ingestible medication.

Other notes

Some common occurrences in young children such as teething pain and related problems, fever from inoculations, ear infections, diaper rash, and side effects from medicine will be dealt with on an individual basis. Communication is the key. In the case of community outbreaks such as Pertussis or other serious communicable diseases, DDC will follow Flathead City County Health Department (FCCHD) recommendations with regards to inclusion and/or inclusion at the center.

Acknowledgment: I have received a copy of Discovery's Health Policy Standards and agree to abide by them. My child needs to be removed from the center if he/she develops any of the above symptoms, or any other communicable illness not listed. I am also aware that my child may not return to the center until he is symptom free, or on antibiotics for 24 hours.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name

Would you like a copy of this document for your file? Yes_____ No_____