

## **LITTLE ACORNS SICK POLICY**

It is our job to inspect the health of each child, each day, for signs of illness. If a child is sick, we may have to send him or her home immediately. Diarrhea, vomiting, undiagnosed rash, fever, irritability, excessive sleepiness and change of behavior are all signs of illness that may cause a child to be refused care for the day or sent home early from care.

We will call you and tell you to pick up your child if any of these is true:

- ❖ The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities;
- ❖ The illness requires more care than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health or safety of the other children; or
- ❖ The child has any of the following conditions:
  - Temperature: oral 101 F or greater (or 100 F axillary or 102 F rectally)
  - Signs and symptoms of possible severe illness (such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing or wheezing)
  - Uncontrolled diarrhea, that is, increased number of stools, increased stool water, and/or decreased from that is not contained by the diaper
  - Vomiting illness: two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours
  - Rash with fever or behavior change
  - Undiagnosed rashes
  - Head lice- we have a no nit policy!
  - Notable change in behavior
  - Communicable disease which requires exclusion (see the director)
  - Ear ache
  - Chills
  - Pain

**If an illness is going around the center and your child shows signs of the illness, we will call you to pick up your child regardless of the above standard guidelines.**

A parent or legal guardian should pick up within an hour. If you cannot be reached we will notify the person designated on the emergency card. If you cannot pick up immediately, you will need to get your emergency back up to pick up.

When a child is sent home, he/she may not return to care until symptom-free for 24 hours. This means they should remain at home for *at least* 24 hours UNLESS you submit a written statement from the health care provider approving an early return to the program. Even then we reserve the right to refuse care if we feel the child may be compromising the health and safety of others. If you keep your child home ill for the day, please call and inform the center so we may post an infectious disease notice.

If you have any questions please see the office staff for assistance.