

Dear Families,

In an effort to keep children, families and our staff healthy, we would like to introduce a form that we will begin using to communicate why your child may be sent home for illness and expectations for when he or she may return. This form is called a **Child Illness/Exclusion Notice** (see the attached copy). According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, children should be excluded from care if they show any of the following signs or symptoms:

* An acute change in behavior including lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, uncontrolled coughing, noticeable (spreading) rash, or other signs or symptoms of illness until medical evaluation indicates inclusion in the facility.
* Fever (temperature above 100 degrees or higher taken auxiliary (armpit)) and behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea).
* Uncontrolled diarrhea, that is, increased number of stools, increased stool water, and/or decreased form that is not contained by the diaper until diarrhea stops; blood or mucus in the stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
* Vomiting illness (two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours) until vomiting resolves or until a health care provider determines the illness to be non-communicable, and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
* Abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms of illness.
* Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider or health official determines the condition is noninfectious.
* Rash with fever or behavior change, until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
* Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge), until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
* Untreated scabies, head lice, or other infestation.
* Untreated Tuberculosis, until a health care provider or health official states that the child can attend child care.
* Known contagious diseases while still in the communicable stage (chicken pox, streptococcal pharyngitis, rubella, pertussis, mumps, measles, hepatitis A).

Children who show signs of a fever may return to care 24 hours after they are fever free and *without* the aid of fever-reducing medication. Children who have uncontrolled diarrhea or a vomiting illness may return to care 24 hours after they are symptom free. Children who show signs of conjunctivitis may return to care 24 hours after treatment has been initiated. In any of the above listed cases, children may return to care with a doctor’s note indicating that the child does not show any signs of a communicable illness and may return to care.

We believe that only with your help, we can give children the necessary time to fully recover from illness and therefore prevent the spread of illness to other children. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in keeping our children and staff safe and healthy!

Plymouth Preschool Learning Center Staff