



## Illness Policy for Seedlings Academy for Young Learners

Updated July 2021

The following policy is established to assure the healthiest environment for all our children and teachers. As we move through the pandemic, we have reviewed and updated our illness policy following general guidelines passed down by DHS and OCDEL.

- If your child is exhibiting any of the following symptoms or conditions, please keep your child at home to protect the health and safety of the other children and teachers. Likewise, if your child presents any of these symptoms while at school, you will be called and asked to make the necessary arrangements to have your child picked up within an hour. Your child must be symptom free, without medication, for 48 hours or present a note from your child's physician to return to the center.

Symptoms or Conditions Include but are not limited to: Fever above **100.4** degrees; vomiting; diarrhea; severe or persistent cough; respiratory distress; chicken pox; head lice; severe or persistent sore throat; pink eye; any disease, condition or symptom that may be communicable; illness of any sort which prevents the child from comfortably participating in daily activities; illness that results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.

- If a communicable illness presents itself in the center, parents will be notified through postings and/or Tadpoles.
- If a student will be absent for any reason, please let us know through one of the following ways: a note through Tadpoles, phone call, text, or email to Sarah, Terri, or your child's teacher.
- Staff will adhere to the same illness policy that pertains to the children.
- Seedlings will continue using an internal tracking system to mitigate the spread of any communicable illness. Additionally, following DHS recommendations, we will expand our procedures to include tracking symptoms as well. All this information will remain confidential.
- **Notifiable Illness:** Some communicable diseases must be reported to Public Health Authorities so that control measures can be used. Parents should notify Seedlings Academy within 24 hours after the child has developed a known or suspected communicable disease. Parents of other children in care who may have been exposed will be informed of the exposure according to the recommendations of the local health department. Confidentiality will be maintained. Specifically, with regards to **COVID-19**, Seedlings will follow current DHS protocols if an enrolled child or member of their household tests positive for COVID-19.