

West End Academy Pre-School

Illness Policy

Children enrolled in any daycare situation find themselves exposed more frequently to various germs. In order to keep every child as healthy as possible, we have implemented this policy. We have spoken with numerous health care providers to come up with these guidelines.

Fever

Fevers are common in young children and are often a signal that something is wrong. **If your child has a fever of 100.0° F, please keep him/her home. If your child develops a fever of 100.0° F while at the West End Academy, you will be called to pick him/her up.**

Our policy is that your child must remain free of fever for **24 hours un-medicated**, before returning to childcare, and area pediatricians agree with this policy. This means that if your child is picked up at 3:00 p.m., but still has a fever at 6:00 p.m. or later, he/she cannot return the next day. The 24 hours begins when your child's fever has broken and remains in a normal range, **un-medicated**.

Diarrhea and Vomiting

Diarrhea due to illness is highly contagious. If your child has diarrhea, please keep him/her home. If your child has 3 or more diarrhea episodes, or any uncontained diarrhea while at childcare, you will be called to pick him/her up. Our care providers use gloves while changing diapers and use proper hand washing techniques between diaper changes. The changing table is also disinfected after every diaper change. Please understand

that germs from diarrhea can be spread through carpets, toys, swings and direct contact. It is very difficult to keep from spreading these germs to other children. Your child must be **diarrhea free for 24 hours** before returning to West End Academy.

If your child vomits while at childcare, you will be called immediately to pick him/her up. Please keep your child at home until **24 hours after the vomiting has stopped**. When children return too soon, there is a much higher rate of recurrence and contagiousness.

Coughs and Colds

Colds are a common occurrence. However, there are some symptoms that warrant keeping a child home. These include, but are not limited to: bad cold with hacking or persistent cough, green or yellow nasal drainage, productive cough with green or yellow phlegm being coughed up. These symptoms may be present with or without a fever.

If your child has just a cold, please notify their teacher. We encourage extra fluids and proper hand washing. If there are cold medicines you know will make your child more comfortable, we will administer them with your written permission. Please do not expect a teacher to keep a child with a cold indoors. If your child cannot participate in the ordinary daily routine, he/she is probably too sick to be in childcare. Fresh air with proper attire is always healthy.

Sinus Drainage: We have been informed by numerous doctors that yellow and/or green mucus is symptomatic of an infection. Therefore, we ask that any child with such drainage be taken for a doctor visit, with a note to return to school.

Rash

A rash may be a sign of many illnesses, such as measles or chicken pox. In infants, an external rash may be a sign that something is going on internally. Please do not send your child to the Academy with a rash until the doctor writes a note saying it is acceptable for them to return.

Doctor's Note

In some instances, you will be asked to keep your child home until we have written permission from your doctor saying your child is well enough to return to childcare. Please understand this is for your child's well being along with the well being of the healthy children at West End Academy and their families.

Bringing Ill Children

If your child is not infectious and your doctor has said they may return, but your child is still not feeling 100%, please see that we have everything to make him/her comfortable. Items such as extra clothing, pillows, blankets, medication, etc. are very helpful to your child.

Medications

If your child goes to the pediatrician and is prescribed medication, please keep your child home until they have completed 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. If your child is to receive antibiotics at childcare, please bring in the labeled bottle from the pharmacy and a syringe or other measuring device. We can administer antibiotics and other medications to your child with your written and signed consent. You must bring this medication to the office to be administered. DO NOT give any medication to your child's teacher.

Medication: We dispense over the counter medications as outlined on the medication. If, for example, your doctor has

you give your 4 year old medication for a child 6 and over, that is not something we can dispense, as we are restricted to the dosing instructions on the package. All medications must have your child's name written on the container, and must be in the store container.

Well Child Assessment

Every child should be assessed when entering West End Academy. This is a state rule. We owe this to the families who pay for a state-licensed facility. If your child appears to have an infectious or contagious condition, you will be asked to take him/her home or to a pediatrician to get checked out. **This is not West End Academy personnel diagnosing your child. We are merely stating that it would be best for them to be checked out by a doctor in order to avoid infecting other children. Please do not be offended if your child is too ill to stay at West End Academy, and you are asked to take them home.**

If your child has had a rough night or previous day, please assess them before bringing them to the Academy. If you ever have any doubts about whether or not your child should be at childcare, please do not hesitate to call and ask us. West End Academy opens at 7:00 a.m., and we would be more than willing to help you make that decision before you have to drop off your child for the day.

Immunizations

When it is time to schedule your child's shots, please due so on a Friday or a day when you can be with them for the following 24 hours. If you need any further details, please contact the West End Academy director, Autumn VanDyke, personally.

Emergency Contacts

We occasionally have problems with not being able to reach someone when a child is ill or injured. If you need to be notified because of your child's illness or injury, it is imperative that we be able to reach someone. If you or your spouse/significant other are listed as emergency contacts, please make sure one of you can be reached at all times. If there is ever a situation where you know you cannot be reached, for whatever the reason, please make sure the staff has the name and phone number of another individual that can always be reached. We also request that if you are notified of your child's illness or injury, you arrive in a timely manner to pick-up your child. Please understand that an injured child requires one-on-one care. It is extremely unfair to the ill or injured child to expect them to remain at childcare when they are hurting because we cannot reach someone to come and get them.

We do understand and empathize with parents when their children are ill. It can be a very difficult, frustrating, and emotionally challenging situation when you are torn between a sick child and other obligations. Our staff also experiences these emotions and situations when they or their children are ill. These policies are designed to be fair to the ill child and their family, as well as our healthy children and their families. Please understand that we love your children and provide the best care possible for them, but we are not a sick day care. We are hoping to control the amount of illnesses and to keep everyone healthy and happy. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call and talk to the director at any time.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you who keep their sick little ones at home and comply with our policies. We appreciate your courtesy!