

Methodist Preschool Student Illness Policy

Children have a higher rate of illness when first enrolled in a new group setting; however, research shows that children who attend preschool acquire a strengthened immune system and experience a lower incidence of illness throughout the elementary school years compared with children who did not attend preschool.

At Methodist Preschool, we promote a healthy environment and discourage the spread of diseases in several ways:

- Staff and children wash hands when entering the classroom at the beginning of the day and throughout the day, but especially beforehand after handling food or eating, after using the bathroom, and before and after assisting children with diapering/toileting.
- Staff is trained in preventative health practices and implements universal precautions as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Health and Human Services
- Classrooms, toys and equipment are regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- Children with communicable diseases or conditions are excluded from school as required by the Health Department.

The following Methodist Preschool Student Illness Policy is developed from standards set by the State of Texas Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing division. We request the cooperation of parents in maintaining these health standards.

Methodist Preschool will not allow an ill child to attend preschool if one or more of the following exists:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in preschool activities including outdoor play;
- The illness results in a greater need for care than caregivers can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of the other children in care;
- The child has one of the following (unless a medical evaluation by a health - care professional indicates that you can include the child in the preschool's activities):
 - An oral temperature above 100.5 ° degrees that is accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness
 - A tympanic (ear) temperature above 100 ° degrees that is accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness. Tympanic thermometers are not recommended for children under six months old
 - An axillary (armpit) temperature above 100 ° degrees that is accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness
 - Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness such as lethargy, abnormal breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, one or more vomiting episodes in 24 hours, rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, behavior changes, or other signs that the child may be severely ill
 - Any signs of respiratory illness: nasal secretions, coughing, and/or wheezing
- A health - care professional has diagnosed the child with a communicable disease, and the child does not have medical documentation to indicate that the child is no longer contagious.

Parents are asked to keep their child home when the child shows any of the following signs or symptoms:

Symptoms / Illnesses	Child May Attend	Child Must Stay Home
Diarrhea	Child has had one loose movement without other physical symptoms before coming to the center. Child may return after 24 hours of no symptoms without the aid of medication	Diarrhea is accompanied by additional signs of illness Is uncontrolled (soiled clothing in toilet trained children or not contained in the diaper) 2 or more times in 24 hours
Colds and Runny Nose	Clear runny nose, with no other symptoms, associated with a diagnosed allergy, doctor's note required	Runny nose with fever, lack of appetite, lethargy or irritability. Runny nose that is yellow or green unless there is documentation by a physician that the child is not contagious. Runny nose plus vomiting. Runny nose plus other signs of illness.
Fever	Child may return after fever has broken without medication for 48 hours.	Child's temperature is 100.5 ° orally, 100.0 ° tympanic, 100.0 ° auxiliary
Ear Infections	Child may return when on medication and 24 hours after constitutional symptoms are gone.	Fever, or lethargy, nausea, vomiting, loose stools, drainage, irritability, tugging on ears.
Eye Infections	Child must be on medication for 24 hours and have no drainage before returning	With yellow or green drainage
Cough	Dry cough with no mucus secretion associated with allergy or asthma, doctor's note required	Any cough, dry or wet/wheezing not associated with a diagnosed medical condition

Vomiting	When symptoms have subsided for more than 24 hours without medication	With fever Once in the last 24 hours Appears green or bloody No urine output in 8 hours Recent history of head injury Looks or acts very ill
Skin Infections or Rash	Child may attend with dry lesions In some instances, child may not return until a physician determines that the symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.	Skin infections or rashes with drainage Accompanied by a fever or behavior change
Lice, Scabies or other Parasites	Child may not return to the center until appropriate treatment and shampoo is complete and child is completely nit free	
Other Communicable Infections	Child may return when infectious symptoms have subsided and child is feeling better. In some instances, a physician's release may be required.	

If a child becomes ill while at preschool, the following procedure will be used:

1. Contact the parent to pick up the child
2. Care for the child apart from other children
3. Appropriate attention and supervision will be given to the child until the parent picks the child up
4. Extra attention to hand washing and sanitation will be utilized if the child has nasal secretions, coughing, diarrhea, or vomiting

A child who was ill may return to preschool when:

- The child is free of symptoms of illness for 24 hours without the use of medication; or
- You have obtained a health care professional's statement that the child no longer has an excludable disease or condition

The health and safety of our students is our highest priority. We can greatly reduce the incidence and severity of illness at Methodist Preschool if we work cooperatively to prevent the rapid spread of communicable diseases. Methodist Preschool appreciates your cooperation in maintaining this policy.