

# HURON PLAYSCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE INC.

## Illness Policy

To maintain a safe and nurturing environment for the children at Huron Playschool we must also make every effort to maintain a healthy environment. To assist staff and parents in making decisions with regards to excluding children due to illness we will use the Canadian Pediatric Society's publication *Well Beings* as our guide. The following information will assist parents in making informed decisions as to when to keep their children home. Please note that the same guidelines apply to staff and parents who are scheduled to co-op.

Parents should report a child's absence and nature of the illness each day that the child is away. This helps staff and parents in watching other children for symptoms. Some illnesses must be reported to Public Health. A visual check will be done on each child as they enter the Playschool.

Under certain circumstances, it is necessary to exclude a child from care for as long as the illness is infectious. For some infections, such as the common cold, excluding a child is not recommended because the germs are spread to other children before the child has signs or symptoms and it is too difficult to prevent the spread. In these situations both staff and parents will need to discuss if the mildly ill child can take part in activities. Children with unusual behaviour, such as lethargy or unusual sleepiness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing or other signs of possible illness should be excluded until their physician approves their return to childcare. The final decision as to whether an ill child can remain in the childcare setting is ultimately the staff's.

A child should be excluded from the child care program if one or more of the following exists:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating in the program activities, or
2. The illness results in greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the care of the other children, or
3. The child has any of the following conditions:
  - a. Chicken pox
  - b. Head lice
  - c. Hepatitis A
  - d. Impetigo
  - e. Measles

- f. Mumps
- g. Pinkeye
- h. Rash (with fever and changes in behaviour)
- i. Ringworm
- j. Rubella
- k. Scabies
- l. Strep throat
- m. Tuberculosis
- n. Whooping Cough (pertussis)
- o. Fever (over 38°C)
- p. Diarrhea or vomiting (more than 1 episode in 24 hours)

In the event that a child shows signs of a communicable disease he or she will be isolated from the other children in the most convenient location where they can be supervised. His or her parent(s) will be contacted. Once the child has been picked up the area will be sanitized so that it is once again safe for all children.

When a suspected outbreak has occurred we will: Isolate all ill children, notify parents to pick up as soon as possible, exclude ill children and staff, record names and symptoms and date and time of when individuals became ill, contact Public Health, increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, suspend all water play and last, but not least, reinforce the importance of good handwashing with staff and children.

Revised: May 2010