

The Clown Club

Policy on Sick Children ¹

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When should a sick child be picked up?

1. When the child is too sick to participate in the daily schedule.
2. If the child has 38.5 degrees fever or 2 or more other symptoms of illness (coughing, listless, diarrhea)
3. When the child is endangering the health of the other children.

Policy on Infectious Diseases

1. Parents should notify teachers and management in cases of infectious diseases.
2. Management will consult the GGD (health department) if necessary. The GGD, with permission of parents, may request further information from the family doctor.
3. The GGD will advise on which actions to take depending on the disease.
 - The sick child will not be admitted due to risk for the other children, this is called prevention.
 - To treat the sick child in order to stop the spreading of the disease.
 - To inform the parents of the other children about the disease, so they are alert to the symptoms.
 - To vaccinate the other children or give them preventative medication.
 - Often is not necessary to take special precautions.

Is a child sick or not?

Every teacher knows the problem: a child that is drowsy with a runny nose and does not want to participate in the group. Is the child sick or not? What do we do? If in doubt it is advisable to keep a close eye on the child.

- Does the child play as you are used to them playing?
- Does the child talk as they normally do?
- Do they react to what you are saying or doing?
- Do they feel warm?
- Does the child cry more often and longer than usual?
- Do they wet their diaper more frequently than normal?
- Does it go to the toilet and what is the result?
- Does the child constantly want to lie down or sleep longer than normal?
- Does the child complain of pain?
- Does the child have diarrhea or is the child vomiting? (2 times in an hour)

Not every change in behavior is caused by illness and the teacher is not supposed to make a diagnosis. What matters is that the teacher can make the decision on whether the child should stay in the group or if the teacher should contact the parents.

Can the child stay in the group?

The decision of whether a child can stay in the group will be made by the teachers, as a matter of principle. The interest of the sick child is of major

concern, but the teacher should also take the interests of the other children into account and of the teaching team. A child that is sick and can not participate in the daily program should not be at The Clown Club. We hardly have the abilities to give a sick child the extra care and attention he needs.

Extra pressure on the teachers can also be a reason to have a child picked up. When a child suffers from diarrhoea and is otherwise fine but needs to be totally cleaned from new clothing to giving baths every hour, this causes problems in the teaching team and leads to problems in the normal program. In conclusion, the health of other children may be a reason not to admit a sick child, but this should only happen with serious and/or very infectious diseases and in close consultation with the GGD.

When should parents be contacted?

If a child has a fever of 38.5 degrees (or more), parents are asked to come pick up their child. Fever is not the only indicator; without a fever a child can be sick as well. If there are 2 or more signs of illness, the parent is requested to come pick up the child. When a child is clearly not feeling well and the teacher doubts whether the child can stay in the group then the teacher will contact the parents. Sometimes a parent gives information that explains the child's behavior, for example, the child went to bed very late. When a teacher decides a child needs to be picked up, she will explain to the parents why and arrange a time for this to happen; the teacher should also let parents know what she is planning to do with the child in the meantime. It can be especially difficult for working parents to pick up their child earlier than expected. That is why it is important that they know the rules The Clown Club has on the admittance of a sick child in advance. We do not easily call parents to pick up their children, unless we feel it's absolutely necessary, so if we request parents to pick up their child, we expect they will come themselves or arrange someone else to pick up their child **as soon as possible**.

What if a child stays home sick?

If your child is home sick, you can make this day up during the same week or the next. The parent/caregiver must put the cancellation into Kidsconnect before 9 am. If this happens after 9 a.m., only via email/ phone or is not communicated at all, the parent/caregiver will not receive exchange credit.

When may a child attend again?

Once a child is completely better, they may come again to The Clown Club. This means that the child has been fever free for 24 hours. We also expect children who have vomited or had diarrhea 2 or more times during the night to stay home.