

Children and families in child care are exposed to a myriad of illnesses. We take the utmost of precautions to ensure that germs don't spread amongst the children at UDCC, however, unfortunately, illness in child care is unpreventable. In order to promote the health and safety of our children, families and staff, children with any of the following symptoms are not permitted to remain in care:

1. Fever of at least 100 ° F as read under arm (axillary temp.) *accompanied by one or more of the following:*
  - diarrhea or vomiting
  - earache
  - headache
  - signs of irritability or confusion
  - sore throat
  - rash
  - fatigue that limits participation in daily activities
2. Vomiting: 2 or more occasions within the past 24 hours.
3. Diarrhea: 3 or more watery stools within the past 24 hours or any bloody stool.
4. Rash, especially with fever or itching.
5. Eye discharge or conjunctivitis (pinkeye) until clear or until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
6. Sick appearance, not feeling well, and/or not able to keep up with program activities.
7. Open or oozing sores, unless properly covered and 24 hours has passed since starting antibiotic treatment, if antibiotic treatment is necessary.
8. Lice or scabies:
  - Head lice: until no nits are present.
  - Scabies: until after treatment is begun.

Children are considered “ill” when they have exhibited any of the symptoms listed above OR when they appear to be too uncomfortable to participate. Ill children are separated from the group and cared for by administrative and/or support staff in the UDCC office. Parents/guardians/emergency contacts are notified, and children remain in the center office until a parent/guardian/emergency contact can pick them up. Sick children are offered their naptime mats, blankets, comfort items from home and water.

We understand that the reason children are in our care is because their parents go to work, which is why getting sick can be stressful – not only for children, but also for parents who have to leave work in order to care for them. However, it is our experience that children who return to school without adequate time to rest and recuperate remain sick and almost invariably present symptoms that would require them to be sent home. It is for this reason that a child must be free of fever – **without** the use of fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol or aspirin) – for 24 hours or have completed a full 24 hours of antibiotic treatment prior to returning the child to care. If there is any question about the child's ability to return to school, a physician's note may be required.