

Cathy's Nursery School

Late Pickup Policy

Because our teachers work a long day, it is not fair to make them stay after hours, please allow enough time to pick up your child on time each day. A late pickup fee of \$1.00 per child is payable to the school for each minute your child is in the school after closing time. It is required by the state that 2 staff members (age 18 years or older) stay with any child that is late to be picked up. Payment is due in full immediately in cash/check to the 2 staff waiting with your child. Late pickup is not a normal program option and our staff members have after school commitments.

A staff person will attempt to contact the parent. If this does not result in a contact then the staff person will contact an emergency/alternate person in child's file. If all attempts fail, then after 30 minutes, the Police will be notified.

Health & Safety

To ensure that parents and children feel safe and comfortable at all times, families of enrolled children are welcome under an open-door policy to visit. Staff undergo a thorough screening & hiring process, which includes background (FBI, local Police & Department of Children and Families) and reference checks. All staff are certified in First Aid, CPR.

Hand Washing Policies:

We recognize the importance of hand washing as the first line of defense against infectious disease. Unwashed hands are the primary carriers of germs & bacteria that cause infection.

Teachers & children wash hands before and after the following activities:

- Handling food
- Eating food
- Wiping noses
- Cleaning
- Toileting
- Contact with any bodily fluids
- Cleaning up after projects

All tables are disinfected after projects and before and after snacks/lunch.

All floors and chair surfaces are cleaned and disinfected weekly.

All rugs are vacuumed each day and by a cleaning crew on weekends.

Medical /Illness or Emergency Care

To ensure the health and safety of the children, children with any of the following symptoms will not be allowed to remain at Cathy's Nursery School: Temperature of 100, conjunctivitis (pink-eye), strep throat, head lice, vomiting, diarrhea, rashes of unknown origin, or the presence of a contagious disease.

A child will be sent home if any of the above symptoms are seen during the day. The Center is not equipped to care for ill children. Each family must be prepared with a reliable emergency contact in the event the child becomes ill during the day and the parents cannot be reached.

We ask that for the child's comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, children be picked up a.s.a.p. after notification.

A child will be allowed to return to school if he or she has been on medicine for a contagious illness for 24 hours or is fever free. Please, fever free means no Tylenol, or any other medication. Medication only masks the symptoms. If a child is well enough to attend school then he or she is well enough to participate in all activities, including outside playtime.

Should your child require emergency medical care, we need to have all emergency numbers on file in case we cannot reach you. It is therefore important that all information be listed on the enrollment application. In case of an accident requiring immediate medical attention, an emergency vehicle will be contacted, as well as the parent. The Director or appropriate staff person will accompany the child to the hospital and will stay with the child until the parent has arrived. Staff will bring with them the child's appropriate medical information. It is important that your physician and choice of hospital be recorded in their file. All paperwork of this type will be given to you before your child is enrolled so that you may complete the required forms before their first day at school.

We do have a nurse who visits our program 3 times a year. She is available for consultations if parents feel the need. The nurse also maintains all medical records on your child.

Illness Policy

Chicken Pox:

The incubation period is 7-21 days prior to the first vesicle appearing. A child is considered contagious for 7 days after the first appearance and until all vesicles are dry and scabbed over. Many children experience "flu-like" symptoms- fever, fussiness, and vomiting before they actually break out with the rash. Children are contagious for 24-48 hours after the first lesion appears.

Colds:

Children will undoubtedly have colds, especially during the winter months. If the

cold is accompanied by fever, greenish-yellow drainage from the nose, or fussiness, the child should be kept at home.

Conjunctivitis (pink eye):

Conjunctivitis is an extremely contagious illness. The symptoms include "weeping eyes" many times with a white to greenish-yellow drainage. The child may also complain that his/her eyes itch or hurt. Pink eye is easily treated with a medication from your doctor. Because Pink eye is so highly contagious, the child should not return to school until the eyes clear up.

Diarrhea/Vomiting:

A child developing diarrhea and vomiting will be sent home. Diarrhea will consist of three or more loose/liquid stools in a one-hour period. Children should be free of symptoms for 24 hours and be able to tolerate a regular diet before returning to the Center.

Ear Infections:

Although there is some controversy as to whether or not ear infections themselves are contagious, most physicians agree that the virus/bacteria in the cold that usually accompanies the ear infection is contagious. All children diagnosed as having an ear infection must be on an antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to the Center.

Fever:

Children with a temperature of 101 degrees should be kept home. Many times a fever is the first sign of an infection or illness, which could be contagious to other child. If a child should develop a fever at the Center of 101 degrees orally, the child's parent will be called and asked to take their child home. Children should be fever-free (temperature at but not above 98.6 degrees) without the use of a fever reducing medication (i.e. Tylenol, Children's Advil or Motrin, etc.) for 24 hours before returning to school.

Head Lice:

Check with your doctor or pharmacy for appropriate shampoo. Bed sheets & pillow cases, clothing, hats and other head-gear such as combs, brushes, etc. must be washed in hot water (130 degrees) with soap or detergent. Anything that can't be washed should be placed in a tightly sealed plastic bag for 48 hours (this kills the lice). Hair must be fine combed daily for seven days. At the end of the seven days, repeat the shampoo again. Children who have been treated for lice may return to school after treatment.

Impetigo (Infectious skin lesions- scab-like):

These lesions may have signs of honey colored drainage. They are found many times on the face or diaper area. A child is considered contagious until an oral

antibiotic has been given for 24 hours.

Strep Throat:

Strep Throat is a contagious illness, which must be treated with an antibiotic. Symptoms include, sore throat, usually accompanied by a fever and a headache. The child may also complain of a stomachache or nausea. If your child has been diagnosed as having strep throat, she/he must be on antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to school.

Ticks:

During the spring, summer and fall months, ticks can be found in the area. If a tick is found on your child while in our care, you will be notified. Your doctor will be able to advise you about the best procedure for removing ticks, or you may want to have your doctor remove it for you.

Immunizations:

Any time your child has received an immunization, please inform the school. This will avoid a phone call being placed to you if your child develops a fever as a result.

Coxsackievirus:

Is extremely contagious. As with chickenpox, the virus is transmitted through the respiratory system (airborne) and a person is probably most contagious just before breaking out with the blisters. Because the symptoms are mild (many children never run a temperature or have a cold) the blisters may be overlooked or mistaken for poison ivy. Anyone with the blisters continues to be contagious until all have faded. The infected person also can pass the virus through their stool for up to three weeks after blister stage.

The virus is not limited to children. Very often it is passed on to adults in the family.

The child may not return to school until the blisters are completely gone.

Rashes:

An unidentified rash appearing on a child's body must be seen by a doctor. The child cannot return to the Center until we receive a written confirmation from the doctor that the rash is not contagious.

Physical Exam Requirements & Health Forms:

The State of Connecticut has very specific requirements in this area. In order for us to maintain our license to provide child care for your child, the following requirements must be met:

An annual physical exam report signed by a licensed physician must be

submitted to school by the parent/guardian. Immunizations must also be included on the physical exam form. We are required to have the day, month, and year for each immunization.

Inclusion

Cathy's Nursery School believes that all children have a right to attend nursery school. The vital questions we must consider each time a child enrolls in our program is:

Will the child's needs be met?

Will the family's needs be met?

Will the program meet the needs of both the child and the family without interfering with meeting the needs of all of the other children and families involved in the program?

Is this the safest environment for your child with special needs?