



Health & Safety Agreement [Policy Updates]

General Notes

Dear Parents,

Ever since we opened our Daycare, we have been keeping in touch with many of the organizations and health authorities not limited to the following:

- CCFL (Child Care Facility Licensing)
- YMCA
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Health
- Fraser Health
- Healthlink BC
- Red Cross

The following policy update is based on the most recent recommendations from the above authorities, and not only we spoke with them over the phone, via email and social media, but also, we spent over hours on Saturday September 8th, 2018 with a trained instructor at YMCA, who helped us with reasonable guidelines to present to our wonderful extended family of parents and children.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINKS AND **RESOURCES** AT THE END OF THIS POLICY UPDATE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS AND **NECESSITY** OF THIS POLICY.

Provincial Laws & Burden of Care

- In Canada, currently (as of September 2018), the ONLY province that allows sick children to be sent to public schools, childcare centres, ... is the province of Alberta. In BC, **sick** children (*will be defined in the next section*) must stay home. **Reason:** In Alberta, care providers are trained to separate the sick from the healthy and care for them during their school/daycare time. In BC, such training is not mandatory, and

WE ARE NOT TRAINED OR EQUIPT TO PROVIDE PROPER CARE TO SICK CHILDREN, NOR TO ADEQUATELY SEPARATE CONTAGIOUS CHILDREN FROM THE HEALTHY.

- Burden of care is on trained professionals. As an example, we were presented with a rare but life-threatening condition called “epiglottitis”. The symptoms are sometimes negligible, though it can be fatal. Daycares are trained to watch for many symptoms, though they cannot diagnose a disease like epiglottitis; therefore, guidelines are provided to try to eliminate risks, injuries and health hazards.



Defining Sickness

- **Please note: This section is replacing the sickness policy [signs and symptoms] in your original daycare policy agreement.**

A child is sick if he or she is too ill to **participate in the regular program activities** or requires more care than staff members are able to provide.

Talk to your doctor before allowing your child, who has been ill, to attend group care. Get assurance that the condition is not contagious or serious. The daycare needs to have this assurance **in writing**.

Some of the OTHER signs that might indicate illness [hence, require doctors' note] are:

- Fever, irritability, lack of energy, trouble breathing, persistent crying, rash, dizziness.
- Diarrhea that goes outside of the diaper, stools that contain blood or mucus.
- Belly pain for 2 or more hours.
- Mouth sores (until they are crusted and dry), pink eyes, ear pain, hand-mouth-feet.

Please note:

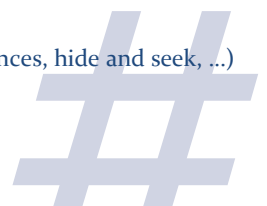
- A sick child should **not** be given pain killers, fever medication, antibiotics, etc and be sent to the daycare WITHOUT a doctor's written note, and fever medication will not prevent a disease to be transferred to others.
- Some parents who do not have many personal days left, find it difficult to take their children to their family doctors. Fortunately, there are alternatives to that in many cases. For instance:
 1. If you live in BC, please download the app "EQ Virtual". You will see an ONLINE doctor for free (MSP card is needed). In many cases, they can send you prescriptions, tests and will place a note in your child's profile for you to keep or print out. (You may specifically ask for the note). Please register with them and discuss your concerns as this might come handy during this winter.

(Also available in BC : Private online doctors via <https://www.getmaple.ca/>)

2. Childcare providers must treat everyone equally, so, no matter how much we love every one of our children and parents, we will not be able to ask one child to respect the policy and allow another child to attend.
3. Runny nose IS NOT a good enough indicator of a disease; therefore, THE MOST IMPORTANT SYMPTOM, AND THE ESSENTIAL GUIDELINE FOR PARENTS TO RECOGNIZE WHEN TO KEEP THE CHILDREN AT HOME IS THIS:

"If a child is too ill to participate in the regular program activities, s/he must come with a doctor's note."

(**Sample activities:** walking, playing with indoor/outdoor toys, following other children in circle dances, hide and seek, ...)



4. 8-1-1 is where you can speak with a health service navigator, who can also connect you with a:
- *registered nurse any time, every day of the year;*
 - *registered dietitian from 9am to 5pm PT, Monday to Friday;*
 - *qualified exercise professional from 9am to 5pm PT, Monday to Friday;*
 - *pharmacist from 5pm to 9am PT, every day of the year.*

Links

- <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/tk5268> (Healthlink BC)
- <https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2003/como18.pdf> (Ministry of Health)

Open Communication

If you have any questions in regards to this policy updates, or you are not able to:

- Care for your child(ren) when ill
- Find alternative care for your children when ill
- Have a child that shows symptoms of illness for longer than most other children, or with more frequency

Please contact us and we will set up a meeting to discuss your specific concerns.



If you have read all 3 pages of this agreement and do agree to the following:

- Providing doctors' written note when the daycare asks for one, or your child shows symptoms
- Keeping the ill child(ren) at home
- Picking-up a suspected sick child within an hour of being contacted by the daycare
-

Please sign the following:

Parent's name: -----

Parent's signature: _____

Date: ____ / __ / __
 YYYY MM DD

