


TO: Parents and Guardians of Children Enrolled at Rainbow's End

FROM: Linda J. Drust, Director 

SUBJECT: Health Policy

DATE: November 17, 2016

Rainbow's End recently updated the *Parent Handbook* and posted it on the center's web site, rainbowsend@siu.edu. There were several items related to the center's health policy that were updated and better clarified. (A copy of the updated health policy is attached.) Please keep in mind that we cannot predict every health related situation, but feel we have covered the areas that are regulated by DCFS and common occurrences at Rainbow's End.

The staff and I understand the commitment made by each parent regarding their work and education. Furthermore, we understand that having a sick child may cause interruptions to a parent's schedule and obligations. Please know that when we call you to express a concern and to report symptoms of illness, we are protecting your child as well as the health and well-being of every child and adult at Rainbow's End. If your child is showing signs of illness, the staff or I will present you with symptoms, but a diagnosis must come from a licensed physician. If a child's symptoms are at a level to cause them to be excluded from our care, we ask that parents make arrangements for the child to be picked up within 30 minutes after the first contact is attempted by Rainbow's End staff.

If a parent needs a written notice for an employer or professor regarding the center's health policy, please notify the office staff and a copy of the center's policy will be provided. Parents may also access the policy on the center's web site.

Children should not be medicated with fever medication prior to drop off time at Rainbow's End, as this practice could prolong or worsen a child's illness and expose others to a contagious illness. During the cold and flu season (generally November through February), parents will be contacted and children sent home if the child has a fever of 100 degrees or above.

I encourage you to read the attached health policy that is currently in place at Rainbow's End. If you have questions or need further clarification, please contact Karen Samuel or me in the office.

LJD/ld

Attachment

HEALTH POLICY

In an attempt to maintain the highest possible standards relating to the health and safety of the children enrolled at Rainbow's End, the following guidelines have been formulated for the staff and the parents. If, at times, this causes some inconvenience to either a staff member or a parent, we ask your tolerance in our effort to protect ALL the children and maintain a safe environment for them.

Illinois state law requires certain immunizations before a child can be enrolled in any preschool program. By age two (2), a child should have received the Basic DPT Series and the first booster, the Oral Polio Series and the first booster, the Measles, Mumps, Rubella shot, the Hib Series, the Hepatitis B Series, and the Varicella vaccine. Rainbow's End staff will enforce these immunization requirements. As laws change, Rainbow's End will follow the new guidelines.

A child may be exempt or on a delayed immunization schedule if written documentation is provided by the child's physician indicating a health risk.

Religious beliefs and parent preference are not valid reasons for a child to not receive immunizations. Noncompliance with immunization laws will result in the child being excluded from attending Rainbow's End.

Colds and other viral illnesses are common among children and, indeed, it is only through exposure to them that children build up an immunity system. A person in the incubation stage of most common illnesses will spread the virus from one (1) to three (3) days before any symptoms of the illness appear. Therefore, children with non-serious communicable diseases (cold, etc.) may attend Rainbow's End as long as they can be managed comfortably.

Within limits, alternatives will be provided for children who are unable to participate in all activities because of health reasons.

1. In general, children should NOT attend Rainbow's End when:
 - The child is obviously distressed, appears very uncomfortable, is crying or cannot be managed. This applies to the child's physical condition.
 - The child's oral temperature is over 101 degrees or higher.
 - The child had diarrhea or vomited within the previous 24 hours, unless it is known to be diet-related as indicated on a written statement from the child's physician.
 - Children will be sent home from Rainbow's End if they have two bouts of diarrhea in a span of 30 minutes.
 - The child has strep throat or scarlet fever and has been on medication less than 24 hours.
 - The child is in the contagious stage of chicken pox, as indicated by any open or non-crusted sores.

- The child has conjunctivitis, "pink eye," and has not been treated for 24 hours. There should be no drainage when the child returns for care.
 - The child has other contagious disease not otherwise specified.
 - If a child is sent home from PreK, Head Start, or school, then the child should not attend Rainbow's End either.
2. A signed physician's release is required before a child can return to Rainbow's End after experiencing any impetigo, scabies, ringworm, and/or hand foot and mouth disease.
 3. A signed physician's release may also be required in any instance in which a contagious and/or communicable disease is suspected. If there has been an exposure to any contagious disease at Rainbow's End, a written notice or report will be posted at the center and/or sent to the parents.
 4. In order to facilitate communication between the home and Rainbow's End concerning health and medical matters, the staff has designated areas for notes from parents. Please use these areas to update the staff on any condition which the child has that is out of the ordinary.
 5. In the event of an accident or an illness which warrants sending a child home, the following procedure will be followed in this order:
 - The parent/guardian will be called at home or on their cell phone.
 - The parent/guardian will be called at work.
 - The two (2) emergency numbers which are left at Rainbow's End will be called.
 - An effort will be made to locate the parent/guardian.
 6. In the event that the staff is unable to locate a parent/guardian or the two (2) emergency persons, they will use their own discretion in contacting the child's doctor/clinic/hospital as listed on the Department of Children and Family Services Emergency Care form.
 7. In the event of minor accidents, the staff will follow procedures outlined in first aid manuals and report these to the parent.
 8. In the event of a more severe accident, such as a minor laceration requiring stitches, possible concussion, or possible simple fracture, the staff will follow the steps outlined in #5 above.
 9. If the child has a compound fracture, deep laceration, severe trauma of any kind, or convulsion, the ambulance service will be called, SIU Student Health Services will be contacted for assistance, and the parents will be notified.

10. Rainbow's End has formal arrangements with the SIU Student Health Services for a licensed, practicing physician and nurse for consultation regarding health care issues when necessary. A registered nurse visits and observes diaper changing and sanitation procedures each month.
11. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to reimburse Rainbow's End for any expenses incurred as a result of emergency health/medical procedures undertaken on behalf of the child.
12. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call and notify Rainbow's End when your child is ill and, therefore, will not be attending the Center.
13. If a child begins to run a low-grade fever, parents will be contacted and placed on notice of the potential for the child to be picked up when the fever is 101 degrees (100 degrees during the cold and flu season, and if there is an outbreak of illness that is out of the norm).
14. Children should not attend Rainbow's End if they have been given fever medication, as this medication could mask a contagious disease. If fever medication is issued at Rainbow's End, then parents must immediately pick up their child and the child not return to the center until they have been fever free without fever medication for at least 24 hours.
15. During the cold and flu season (generally November through February), parents will be contacted and children sent home if the child has a fever of 100 or above degrees.
16. Staff at Rainbow's End can identify symptoms of illness, but a physician must diagnose the illness. It is important for parents to understand that staff will err on the side of caution and encourage a visit to the doctor for the proper diagnosis.
17. Parents should pick up their child within 30 minutes or less after the initial call is made regarding a child's illness.