

Health & Safety Guidelines

Illness

At Play & Learn, we promote the health and well-being of the children in our centers. Our goal is to provide care as long as the child is comfortably able to participate in the program, will not infect others and does not require more attention than the staff can give in a group setting.

The conditions that require exclusion from the center are as follows:

1. Temperatures: (Taken axillary (armpit) and 1 degree added or with a tympanic (ear) thermometer)
 - Infants 4 months and younger with a temperature of 100° or greater, or
 - Children over 4 months of age with a temperature of 101° or greater, who also has behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness.
2. Symptoms of severe illness such as lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, inexplicable irritability or crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs (until medical evaluation determines the child can remain in care)
3. Uncontrolled diarrhea (stool runs out of the diaper or the child can't get to the toilet in time)
4. Blood in the stool not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools
5. Vomiting two or more times in 24 hours
6. Persistent abdominal pain
7. Mouth sores with drooling
8. Rash with fever and/or behavior changes
9. Pink or red conjunctiva (ie, whites of the eyes) or eye lining with white or yellow pus coming from the eyes (signs of bacterial infection)
10. Head lice or nits, until after the first treatment
11. Scabies, until after treatment has begun
12. Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has started
13. Strep Throat or other streptococcal infection, until 24 hours after treatment has been started
14. Chickenpox (varicella) until all lesions have dried or crusted
15. Whooping Cough (pertussis), until 5 days after appropriate antibiotic treatment

You will be called if your child becomes ill during the day. If needed, you will be asked to pick-up your child. If you cannot be reached, your listed emergency contacts will be called. Parents are required to arrange for pick-up within one hour. It is important for your child to remain at home until he or she is symptom free and can participate in all group activities. You will be informed when any contagious disease occurs at the Center.

The decision whether to exclude a child from the center will be made by the Center Director or lead staff person caring for your child. In addition, a doctor's note or plan of care may be required prior to allowing your child to return to the center.

Health Evaluations/Immunizations

For your child's protection, we recommend that all children receive the standard immunizations including DTP, measles, rubella, polio, Hepatitis B and a TB test. We require a physician's statement of inoculations and general medical health upon enrollment. Medical Health Forms must be updated according to the age schedule on the reverse of the form to comply with PA Department of Welfare regulations. Failure to provide updated records may result in the termination of your child from the center. Updating a form each time you visit the doctor should keep you up to date. Please see your Center Director for additional forms.

Medication

It is our policy not to administer any medication (including all over-the-counter medications and prescription ointments) at the Center unless it is an emergency. Please request a medication schedule from your doctor so that the medicine can be given at home. If your child must have medication during school hours, a parent should arrange to come to the school to give the medication.

Medication will be administered only when the schedule can not be altered and with physician approval. These guidelines must be followed:

1. Provide written instructions from your doctor with date, name of medication, name of patient, dosage amount, dosage frequency and reason for medication.
2. Medicine must be labeled with child's name, name of drug, prescribing physician's name, pharmacist's name, dosage, time and frequency to be given.
3. Give all medications and written permission to Director (or lead teacher in her absence). Written permission from parents and Director's approval are required for medication to be administered.
4. A Medication Form from the center must be filled out and signed before medication will be given.

Hand Washing Policy

To comply with Keystone STARS and to maintain a healthy environment, Play & Learn has adopted a hand washing policy. Play & Learn staff will wash your child's hands before and after eating, after outdoor play, after diapering and periodically throughout the day. **We are requesting that every parent wash his/her hands and his/her child's hands upon entering the classroom each day.**

Air Filtration

All centers are equipped with air filtration 'Sterilight' units in every classroom. These units help eliminate airborne bacteria, viruses and other micro-organisms with carbon and particle filters and an innovative Ultraviolet Light Chamber. This disrupts vital generic components of the micro-organisms, virtually eliminating their harmful effects.

Clean Floor Policy

Parents must wear shoe covers before entering infant classrooms, to ensure the cleanliness of the floors.

Emergencies

In case of an accident or sudden illness, the following procedures are followed:

1. A phone call is made to 911.
2. Child's parent (or emergency contact person) is called.
3. Child and health records are taken to emergency service at the nearest hospital.

In all cases, an incident report is completed and given to the parent by the Director. It is very important, especially in instances of illness or emergency that the contact information we have on file is correct. Promptly report any changes in address, phone number, employment, physician, or health insurance information to your Director.

Staff Trainings

All Play and Learn staff are certified in Pediatric First Aid, CPR and Fire Safety. Staff maintain their certifications through trainings provided by Play & Learn. Additionally, in-service trainings take place throughout the year.

Playground

Our enclosed playgrounds are designed with age appropriate equipment/surfaces, which meet the Department of Public Welfare standards for child safety. Staff members check the playground to ensure safety each morning prior to the children's arrival.

Child Abuse Reporting

All Play & Learn staff are trained in child abuse reporting obligations. All staff members are required by law to directly report any suspicions of child abuse and neglect to Childline at 1-800-932-0313 as per DPW regulation 3270.19.

Elevator

The Abington Gerstadt Center has an elevator from the main floor to the second floor. You must hold your child's hand when entering and exiting the elevator. No child should be allowed to use the elevator without adult supervision.