

Learning Ladder Health Policy

Some children may have frequent illnesses when they first enter a childcare or school environment. Once a child's immune system becomes more resistant, those illnesses usually decrease in frequency. Proper nutrition, adequate sleep and predictable routines will help children remain healthy.

Children need to be in good health to get the most out of their school day. It is our policy that if children are well enough to attend, they must be well enough to participate in all of the daily programming, including outdoor activities.

Learning Ladder follows the recommended guidelines established by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The purpose of our Health Policy is to reduce the risk or spread of disease. Listed in this brochure are some of the more common illnesses. Please note that this may not be a complete list and Learning Ladder reserves the right to make exclusions based on individual circumstances.

Please see Learning Ladder's Parent Policy Manual for our complete Health Policy.

Additional information on specific diseases can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable.

This policy is for reference purposes only and shall not be used as a substitute for medical consultation, nor to be used to authorize actions beyond a person's licensing, training, or ability.

Observation of the Child

Upon arrival at the center, and periodically throughout the day, each child will be observed for symptoms of illness or injury.

Isolation

If a child appears ill, an area will be provided for the child to rest with their cot and blanket. If the area is not in a separate room, the space will be separated from the other children by the use of a partition, screen or other means.

Communicable Diseases

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presences of a communicable disease (see other side). If a staff member suspects a child of having a reportable communicable disease as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the staff member shall contact the director. Some diseases will require a statement from a physician before a child may return to the program. Parents are required to report all communicable diseases to the office.

Parent Notification

When a child shows symptoms of an illness, a teacher will contact the parents by telephone or, as necessary will phone other individuals listed on the child's enrollment form for pick up. Parents are required to pick up their child within 1 hour of notification. Learning Ladder is not licensed to offer sick care, nor do we have the resources to provide isolated and sustained individual attention for children who are ill or unable to participate in classroom activities.

When a communicable disease has been confirmed by a medical professional, and the parent has notified Learning Ladder, a notice will be posted on the central parent board. These notices will not contain personally identifying information, but will indicate the name of the condition and number of cases.

Common Illnesses

Fevers

Elevated body temperatures may or may not be an indicator of an illness. The following indicators will be used to determine if a child shall be excluded from Learning Ladder.

For children under 6-months of age

If the child's auxiliary temp is 99.8° or greater, the child's temp will be rechecked in 15-30 minute intervals. If a subsequent reading is 100.6° or greater, an exclusion is required.

For children over 6-months of age

If the child's auxiliary temp is between 99.8° and 100.5°, the child's temp will be rechecked in 15-30 minute intervals. If subsequent temps remain in this range, the child will be excluded if one or more of the following symptoms are also observed:

- Drowsy, long nap, difficult to wake
 - Behavior changes; crying, clinginess
 - Breathing difficulties, coughing
 - Significant appetite changes
 - Flushed or pallid appearance
 - Child's comments or complaints
- Or**
- If the child's auxiliary temp is 100.6° or higher, the child will be excluded.

Diarrhea Illness

Diarrhea illness is characterized by an increased number of stools compared to normal, or an increase in stool water and/or lack of stool consistency. Parents will be notified after the first incident of diarrhea is observed. If the child is observed to have two diarrhea stools within an 8 hour period (including at home), or the diarrhea cannot be contained, the child will be excluded.

Vomiting Illness

Caregivers will be careful not to mistake "spitting up" or other mild digestive disturbance for vomiting. Parents will be notified after the first instance. The child will be excluded after one or more episodes of vomiting in a 24-hour period (including at home).

Exclusion Period for Fevers, Diarrhea and Vomiting:

Children may return after they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours *without* medication.

Ear infections

Children exhibiting one or more of the following symptoms may be excluded from the center.

- Pain
- Difficulty sleeping
- Constant need to be held/comforted
- Pulling on ear
- Fever
- Excessive crying
- Unable to nurse/take bottle
- Inability to attend play

Exclusion period:

If exhibiting one or more of these symptoms, a child may return:

- 24 hours after beginning medication
- or
- After being symptom free for 24 hours without medication

If a child has green or bloody drainage, s/he may return:

- 24 hours after antibiotic has been started
- or
- After all drainage has stopped if not treated with antibiotics.

Common Communicable Diseases

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)

Pink Eye is a contagious eye infection often caused by bacteria or viruses. It spreads by direct contact with an infected person or their secretions. First symptoms usually occur 1-3 days after exposure.

Exclusion Period:

With medication, a child may return 24 hours after beginning an antibiotic and the eye no longer produces pus. Without medication, a child may return after the eye no longer produces pus and is able to participate in activities.

Head Lice

Head lice are not a serious health threat; they are unpleasant, cause itching, can be difficult to extinguish and are highly communicable. *They are not a sign of poor hygiene.*

Exclusion Period:

A child may return after they are treated and nit free. A director must check the child before he/she returns to the classroom.

Rashes

There are many types of rashes. Many go away without intervention, but some do not.

Exclusion Period:

If a rash of unknown origin remains for 24 hours, Learning Ladder reserves the right to exclude a child until a physician determines that the rash is not contagious and authorizes the child to return to childcare.

Strep throat (Streptococcal pharyngitis)

Strep is a bacterial infection of the throat and tonsils. Symptoms include sore throat, painful swallowing, fever, swollen lymph nodes and fatigue.

Exclusion Period:

The child may return after completing 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

The following is a partial list of common illnesses and symptoms that may suggest a possible communicable disease. Exclusions will be required for the following illnesses if they are identified by a health provider. If Learning Ladder staff suspects a child may have a communicable illness, we reserve the right to require the child to visit a health professional before returning.

- Rosella
- Influenza
- Measles
- Shingles
- Tuberculosis
- Impetigo
- Streptococcal pharyngitis
- Bacterial meningitis
- Fifth disease
- Scabies
- Pink Eye
- Chicken pox
- Lice
- Pertussis
- Mumps
- Hand, Foot & Mouth
- RSV
- Hepatitis A and B
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Abdominal pain that continues for 2 hours or intermittent pain with fever or other symptoms
- Bloody stools not explained by dietary change, medication or hard stools
- As recommended by Health Dept.

Exclusion Period:

Exclusion periods for these diseases vary and may be found on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable.