



Big Box of Crayons Family Preschool Sickness Policies

Ms. Jenni operates a "well-child" preschool. These strict policies will protect all of us. Your agreement is appreciated, and you will be rewarded with the assurance that all ill children will be kept home. Please keep in mind that healthy children are demanding and sick children even more so. Please be fair to your child, the other children who come to BBC and to Ms. Jenni and do not leave your child at preschool when they are ill.

SICK OR ABSENT CHILDREN

Parents are to notify Ms Jenni before 7:30 A.M. when a child will be absent for the day. Attendance is taken daily. You will still have to pay for that day; there is no discount for being sick. Sick children should not be brought BBC. This results in further inconvenience to the parent, since they will be called and the child will be sent home if they are sick. It may also expose other children or Ms Jenni to the illness. It is important that communicable diseases such as strep throat, chicken pox, impetigo, conjunctivitis (pink eye) and lice be reported to Ms Jenni. A child who has had lice must be nit-free in order to be readmitted to preschool. Children must be free from symptoms as described in "Illnesses" and/or on medication for 24 hours before they can return to the programs. Ms Jenni should be notified in writing when a child will be absent for more than one day (i.e. vacation, family is in town...etc.)

Please advise me whenever a member of your family has an illness, so that I can be alert to the possibility of symptoms developing in the preschool class. This includes over the weekend. I want to hear from **you** that the child was sick. Not the child telling the class they throw up in the car over the weekend or had to go to the doctor in the middle of the night.

The parent/guardian agrees to inform Ms Jenni by the next morning or within 24 hours on a weekend after his/her child or **any** member of the immediate household has developed a reportable communicable disease, as defined by the State Board of Health, except for life threatening diseases which must be reported immediately.

SICK CARE

BBC is a well care only preschool. I will expect you to make arrangements to come and take your sick child home **right away**. If you cannot, then you need to call your back up. If a parent has not come to pick up their child after one hour, I have the right to charge you an **extra \$1 per minute (\$60 an hour)** for sick care. At that time, I will start calling other numbers on your call list until someone picks up your sick child.

In the event that Joe or I are mildly ill, I will also give you as much notice as possible to allow you to decide if you want to risk exposure to your child. These days will not count toward my paid sick days since I will still be available to care for your child. It is your reasonability to find care if your child is sick and cannot come to BBC or if Ms Jenni or Joe is sick and closed BBC for the day. At that time, the lesson plan might turn more into movie day if Ms Jenni is the one not feeling well.

ILLNESSES

Please do not bring your child into my home when they are sick. This is not fair to your child, the other children in my care or to me. I do my best to clean everything every day, and have the children wash their hands often. A sick child can spread it to other children and other parents very quickly. One child's cold or runny nose may be another child's bronchitis, asthma attack, or worse. We all must be over-cautious to protect all the children. Your cooperation in these health matters is greatly appreciated. If ALL parents keep sick children at home, BBC families and Ms Jenni will remain healthier and happier. This will mean fewer lost work days and illnesses for parents. These policies are taken from the Department of Human Services and Public Health. A parent will be contacted to pick up a sick child when the child exhibits any of the following symptoms at BBC:

- Fever - 100.0 degrees F. or higher
- The child has vomited for any reason (this includes but not limited to flu, food poisoning, upset, crying/upset, bad cough, too much candy/juice, ate a certain food...etc.)
- Diarrhea - 2 very loose stools in one day, or it's so bad it ran out of the diaper/underwear the first time.
- If your child poops more than 6 times in one given day or has to go pee more than 2-3 times an hour.
- They have an undiagnosed rash. (Droll Rash is normal during teething.)
- If they a bad runny nose with snot that drains all day and they can/will not wipe their own nose as needed. This is especially true for the younger ones that do not wipe their noses. It is best to stay at home on those days.
- A bad or uncontrolled cough that doesn't allow the child to participate in classroom activities. When the cough is so bad it keeps your child or other children awake during nap time. Or they cannot cover their mouth and are coughing over everything or other people/children. Or are just coughing too much and need to have it check out.
- Difficulty breathing or wheezing.
- Their eye is red/pink with white/yellow eye discharge. Or they have matted eyelids, redness of the eyelid or skin surrounding the eye. If it's allergies, I need a doctor's note saying it is not pink eye.

If your child contracts any of the following infectious diseases or illness they must be excluded until the following occur:

***Asthma Attack** – child can participate normally in classroom & outside activities

***Burns/Sun Burns** – child needs to stay home until they are comfortable and can participate in all activities.

Chicken Pox & Shingles - After all blisters have scabbed over, usually a week.

***Cold** – After the child's snot is no longer colored and **they can maintain** their own runny nose and wash hands.

***Cold In Eye** – After area around the eye is cleaned out and no crusty eyelids.
***Cough** – When the child's cough no longer interrupts the classroom's daily activities and they can cover their mouth with their elbow while coughing. Children that cough on friends/things or too often will be sent home.
Diarrhea – After the child has normal stools for 24 hours without medicine and eaten a normal meal.
***Ear Infection** - After three doses of medication or after 24 hours from first dose. Ear infections are not contagious, but the colds that result in ear infections are. Medication should clear up the infection and cold.
Fever - After the fever has returned to normal without the aid of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
Hand, Foot & Mouth – They can return 7 days after being diagnosed. This is a painful & very catchy illness.
Head Lice – 24 hours after they complete treatment and removal of all nits.
Impetigo - After child has been on medication for 24 hours.
Influenza, H1N1 or Influenza like illness – Fever free for 72 hours and/or rules set by MN Department of Health.
Pneumonia – After fever free for 24 hours and child can participate normally in classroom & outside activities.
Pink Eye - After the child has been on medication for 24 hours and has no matter in his or her eyes.
Rash/Scab – After it has gone away or is cleared by a doctor to come back. Place band aid over rash/scab until heals.
***Runny Nose** - the child must be able to maintain their runny nose. (This include the “2 yrs old” runny nose)
Roto Virus - After the child has had two “formed” stools.
Sore Throat/Loss of Voice – until voice returns and/or been checked to not have strep.
Strep Throat - After the child has been on medication for at least 24 hours.
Teething – All sick rules apply unless cleared by doctor.
Throwing Up/Food Poison – 24 hours after the vomiting and nausea has stop and they have eaten a normal meal.
***Urinary Tract/Bladder Infection** – After first dose of medication and they can pee without discomfort.
Whooping Cough – 5 days after the appropriate antibiotic treatment beings.

* = Siblings may come to school. Siblings must be able to maintain their cold/cough if they are returning to school.

Most of this is MN DHS state law for child care settings and schools, some is a BBC Preschool policy. I have the Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings and School Handbook here at BBC. I just listed the ones the book suggests; if there are other infectious diseases, we will look to this book at that time. All parents are warned of any sickness going around or involving children at BBC. By enrolling here you give me the right to tell the parents when your child is sick.

DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

Please do not schedule any appointments during nap time (12-3pm). I do not allow pickups or drop offs during this time. Keep in mind when scheduling these appointments, that you are only allow **one pick up** and **one drop off** per day. I **do not permit** a child to come to my preschool **AFTER** being at the doctor even if they are given the all clear. This **does** including going in to see a specialist, checkups, get seasonal shots or anything else. The children pick up germs. I have seen more than a few times where a child goes in for a flu shot or to an ear check: the next day they come down with something or have spread it around the whole preschool. For full rules on this subject please visit the “appointment” section of your parent handbook.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER BEING SICK

If your child is too sick to run around outside or be involved in a water day, then they are too sick to come to preschool. If your child is too upset or lethargic to participate in the daily activities or keeps falling asleep, they need to stay home. Please do not come in and say the child only got four hours of sleep last night, won't eat breakfast and they have been moody all morning, but will be better after nap. They need to stay home and get the sleep they need and then come in to school. It is not fair to all the other children to have one child stop their normal routine. I understand you need to go to work and do your job. Please understand your child is not my only student enrolled at BBC; I need to do my job too.

I reserve the right to refuse care if your child has not been free of all symptoms for the last 24 hours. Please do not put me in the spot of bring a sick child to school and making me tell you to bring them back home. That makes me feel uncomfortable and also spreads unwanted germs. This could be a reason to terminate our contract. If you are not sure, please call.

I understand that all parents need to work, but your child's health is important to me. Likewise, keeping Ms Jenni and all the other children free from illness is also important. You should be aware that any time a new child is introduced to the group, colds and other minor illnesses are likely to occur until everyone's immune systems have adjusted to the new exposures.

By enrolling at BBC you are giving me the right to tell any other parent when your child is sick. Anything major is posted on the bulletin board as well as written in notes home to parents. This is the best way for parents to know what is going around.

SURGERY/STITCHES/CAST

A child must stay home for 24 hours after they have had any form of anesthesia. If they have stitches please make sure the area is well covered before returning to BBC. Children that get a cast should stay home for 48 hours if something simple like their arm cast or walking cast to help them get used to the cast before going back to BBC. If they need any sort of body cast or non-walking cast please take 3-5 days at home for them to get used to the cast. They need to be able to walk up and down stairs themselves and be in no pain to return. Please note if they need extra care they might be bumped up to the extra care rate during this time.

SICKNESS WITH SIBLINGS

Unless you are taking the child straight to the doctor, **you need to take any siblings home** when coming to pick up a sick child. Otherwise, you need to pick them up on the way home from the doctor, not wait until the end of the day. (Please call, we will meet you at the door. We do not want the germs entered back into the preschool.) If your child (including older an child) has something contagious (they are sick), then the **sibling needs to stay home the next day** as well, unless you have a doctor's note clearing them to come back to preschool. This means you made an appointment to have the sibling check out by a doctor and there is a note saying the child could in **no way** could spread the germs the sick siblings has back into the preschool. I have yet to see a doctor do this

outside of when the sick child had something like an earache or UTI. I understand it's hard to watch a healthy and a sick child, but this is the best way to stop germs from spreading back into the preschool. Even if they are not sick themselves, they could be a carrier for the germs that a sibling has. In addition, it's very hard when one child gets to stay home and the other has to go to school. It makes for a very emotional and rough day for the child and class at the preschool. Thank you for understanding.

DROP OFF & PICK UP – IF PARENT IS SICK

If you are sick yourself, please **DO NOT** come into my home and preschool. Call and we will meet you at the door for drop off and pick up. If you have something infectious please keep your child at home or bring them to a family members' house if you are too sick to care for them. It's the same as the siblings, if you have it, you could be spreading it to the whole class just walking in the house.

COLDS

A child with a **meek** cold may attend preschool. If at any point symptoms become extreme, child becomes particularly irritable, the child is unable to participate in our regular activities, or I believe that I am unable to provide quality care to ALL of the children with the sick child present; parents will be called to pick the child up. This also means the child with the mild cold needs to be able to maintain their runny nose on their own, wash their hands afterwards and cover their mouth by coughing into their elbow to stay at BBC preschool for the day. Yes, even the two year olds are expected to do this.

ALLERGIES

Allergies are no fun for anyone, especially a small child. If your child is allergic to any foods or medication; I need to have a current epi-pen here and an Action Plan report on file. If your child has seasonal allergies I need to have a note from the doctor listing what your child is allergic to (Ash Trees, Pollen, Mold, Dust Mites, Cats...etc) and what is to be done as an action plan. They usually do not test for allergies until 4 years old, but if the case is bad they can usually guess in children smaller. This is for your own benefit. If I do not have something on file, I will treat it as a normal cold and they will go home. This does not mean that a child with allergies that doesn't wipe their nose or cover their cough can stay. They will be sent home as well. It is more about the parents that send sick child to school with icky colds and then try to tell me it is just allergies. I am sorry; I need it on file to believe you. If the seasonal allergies are so bad for the child that they are unhappy or cannot participate I will ask that they go home. For those of you with seasonal allergies (like myself) there are some days that you just feel awful and bad allergies can be worse than an awful cold. The child just needs to rest and take it easy at home on those days.

ASTHMA OR RAD (Reactive Airways Disease)

Asthma is a serious condition. Ms Jenni also has asthma and understands how quickly things can go wrong fast. The child needs an inhaler here and an action report on file. I need a doctor's note to be able to do a nebulizer treatment for your child if a problem should arise. (You must supply the nebulizer machine and medicine.) We do not go outside if the temperature (including wind chill) is less than ten degree and we do not go outside or for a very short time when it is hot. If the child's asthma is so bad they are not allowed to run around in the backyard, then this is not the place for you. I will not make any child just "sit on the desk" and watch their friends play. If their breathing changes, I will ask them to take a little water break or go swing for a while and then allow them to go back and play. If their breathing is that bad on a certain day, then they need to stay home. I also understand child with asthma have a winter cough. They still need to cover their mouth to be allowed to come to BBC. If their cough takes a turn for the worse and the inhaler is not helping, I will give them a nebulizer treatment (if they have a machine here). If there isn't one here or that does not help, I will ask you to pick up your child. Also please do not self proclaim your child has asthma, if you don't know for sure. Please get it checked by a medical professional, it is not something you should label and then write off. It can turn fatal very fast if it is asthma and if it's not asthma then the child can get treatment for their upper respiratory issue. Asthma is very serious and one child's cold could be another child's asthma attack. I do not want any children going to the hospital on my watch.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

All children with allergies or asthma need to have a Medical Action Plan filled out by their doctor and on file in BBC.

MEDICATIONS

I require written permission and instructions to administer prescription and nonprescription medication such as sunscreen, lotions, toothpaste, diapering products, bug spray, etc. I do not administer things like Tylenol or nonprescription cough syrup or non prescription allergy medicine. They should take daily medication before coming to school (allergy medicine) if they are sick enough to need it a second time during school the maybe they need to stay home. Medications must be supplied in its original container, have the child's first and last name and current prescription information on the label.

Please let Ms. Jenni know of **any** medication you have giving to your child before school. The child will usually tell me, and if I find out you are trying to medicate to mask a sick child it could be the end of your contract here at BBC. Also please let me know if your child was ill over the weekend or on vacation. The children do talk and usually will tell me on their own if they were sick. There needs to be open communication between the parents and Ms Jenni. If you know your child has gotten shots, is on medication at home for an ear infection, or something else that could cause diarrhea or a low-grade temperature, please let me know at drop off time. I am more understanding if I know it is because of this, and not that they are too sick to be in child care.

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATE

I require the child to be able to participate in all daily activities. If the child is so upset they cry more than 30 minutes straight then they need to go home. If they are complaining something hurts to the point they stop participating in the classroom activities for more than 30 minutes then you need to either talk to them via phone and see if that will get the problem taken care of. If not, they need to go home. If the child cannot participate in normal outside activities, they need to stay home that day. I do not require the child to "sit out" just because a parent asked me too. If they need to sit out, they are too sick to come to school that day. We do take water breaks outside. They bring their own water bottles and able to drink from them as needed. Please understand I am one person. I cannot do sick care and teach/care for the rest of the class at the same time. Children that take away from me doing this need to go home and get the one on one attention they need at that time.

SICK POLICY AGREEMENT

Failure to comply with these terms could mean a 30 day warning or terminate of your contract. This is in the best interest of your child, and the BBC Family Preschool. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Ms Jenni about any medical needs or concerns. By signing this you are stating you have read this full agreement and agree to it. This is a binding contract. BBC can terminate on the spot any family that breaks this agreement or place them on a 30 day warning.

MOTHER SIGN _____ DATE _____

FATHER SIGN _____ DATE _____

PROVIDER SIGN _____ DATE _____

If you are left with no back up care and your children or someone in your family is sick there is a local company called **At Home Child Care Services** that does all sort of back up and sick care for families in their homes. www.athomechildcareservices.com. If the child is healthy they can also go to **Kids' Time Northtown** that does hourly care starting at 8am. <http://kidstimenorthtowninc.com>. It might be wise to look into these options so you are ready if there is a need at the last minute.

Please list in order the numbers you would like to be called if your child is sick and needs to go home.

	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD (Dad, Friend of Mom, Grandma...etc)	TYPE OF NUMBER (Work, Cell, Home)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

A copy of this policy can be found online at www.bigboxofcrayonspreschool.com

Mary Had a Little Cold

Mary had a little cold, but didn't stay at home.
And everywhere that Mary went, the cold was sure to roam.
It wandered into Molly's eyes, and filled them full of tears.
It jumped from there to Bobby's nose and then to Jimmy's ears.
It painted Anna's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jennie's head.
Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed.
The moral of this little tale is very quickly said:
Mary could have saved some pain, with just one day in bed!
*courtesy of the Valley of the Sun