

## HEALTH POLICY (Updated January 2022)

We want to keep all our children healthy and need your cooperation to maintain a high health standard. Please call if your child will be absent.

Parents are to keep their child home when the child:

1. Requires more care than the staff can provide, or an illness that compromises the health and safety of others.
2. Has persistent diarrhea or liquid stool (two or more bouts in the past 24 hours). The child must be free from diarrhea for 48 hours before returning to the Spotted Zebra,
3. Has had a fever of 100 degrees or more within the past 24 hours or a rash. To return to Spotted Zebra, child must be fever free without the use of medication for a MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS.
4. Has vomiting accompanied by other signs of illness or dehydration or vomiting two or more times in the past 24 hours. The child must be free from vomiting for 48 hours before returning to the Spotted Zebra.
5. Has undiagnosed rashes.

Children will also be excluded from the Spotted Zebra Learning Center until a medical evaluation allows for the inclusion of the following:

1. lethargy
2. uncontrolled coughing
3. persistent abdominal pain
4. discolored urine
5. refusal to eat or drink
6. irritability
7. persistent crying
8. difficulty breathing
9. wheezing
10. green nasal discharge for more than 10 days
11. eye discharge or extreme redness

**If a child is prescribed an antibiotic for a contagious disease or infection, including but not limited to, conjunctivitis or strep throat, the child must remain out of Preschool for 48 hours after the first dose of medication.**

Should your child have an illness diagnosed by the doctor as a contagious disease, you must notify the Director immediately, so that other parents can be informed that their children may have been exposed to a contagious disease. Some of these include conjunctivitis, chicken pox, bronchitis, fifth disease, Coxsackie virus, lice, scabies, measles, mumps and impetigo. We are required to report any communicable diseases to the Albany County Health Department. It is a state regulation that a physician's release is required for re-admittance to the preschool following a contagious illness. If your child is too ill to play outside, please keep him/her at home. Small children do not understand why they cannot play outside when everyone else can.

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be notified immediately and will be expected to pick up your child as soon as possible. In the event a parent cannot be reached, the person listed on the child's emergency form will be notified and asked to come for your child. An ill child may not remain at the Center for any reason. In case of severe illness or injury, the Center staff will call for an ambulance to take the child to the nearest facility, which offers emergency treatment, or to the facility requested by the parents, on behalf of the parents. Parents are to inform the Center in writing when there are changes in address, telephone numbers, or name of persons designated to pick up a child.

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

If child is diagnosed with COVID-19 they may not return to Spotted Zebra until all three of the following criteria are met: symptoms have abated and are no longer considered contagious; symptoms will not impair the child's ability to wear a mask; and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

If a family member of a child tests positive for COVID, that child will remain out of school for a minimum of 10 days from the date of exposure (when the sibling or parent first had symptoms). They may return on day 11 without having tested unless they are experiencing any COVID like symptoms. At that point, a test to determine if the child is positive or negative will need to be done and submitted.

If an unvaccinated child comes in close contact to a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 they must quarantine at home for a full 5 full days after exposure. On the sixth day, they may test to see if they are asymptomatic with COVID. If they are negative and without any symptoms, they may return to preschool. If they are negative but with other symptoms that could be contagious, we will need a doctor's note for their return.

For children who are vaccinated and/or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they may continue to attend school. A mask must be consistently worn at all times.

Acceptable COVID tests:

Acceptable COVID tests that can be submitted for return to school include:

- Laboratory tests. Laboratory tests are a Rapid test or a PCR test administered at a health facility.
- Self-tests are rapid tests that can be taken at home or anywhere. Please use a COVID-19 self- test that indicates it has been FDA approved.

**Medications:** It is a state regulation that to administer any type of medication to a child, we must have a *Written Medical Consent Form* signed by the child's physician and parents.

Prescription medications must be in the original container labeled with your child's name, date, directions and the physician's name. We will administer the medication only as stated on the label directions. We will not administer expired medications.

Non-prescription medications are to be labeled with your child's name and date it was given to us. It must be in the original container and administered according to label directions. If label directions indicate "CONSULT PHYSICIAN", we must have directions in writing by a health professional.

Medications requiring refrigeration are to be given to your child's teacher to be refrigerated. NO MEDICATION OF ANY TYPE IS TO BE IN A CHILD'S CUBBY OR BAG. This includes cough drops, etc.

***Mandated Reporter:*** As a childcare provider, the Spotted Zebra Learning Center is a mandated reporter of child abuse and maltreatment. Mandated reporters are those individuals who must report, or cause a report to be made, whenever they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them, in their professional or official capacity, is abused or maltreated. The Spotted Zebra Learning follows the procedures and guidelines set forth by the NYS Department of Children and Family Services and Child Protective Services.