



AllCare Provider Services, Inc. Learning Ladder Day Care Center

Dear Parents/Guardians,

December 19, 2019

Important Information

Outdoor Play:

According to the Department of Education all students must go outside daily during the Pre-k for All program. Students will only have indoor recess if there is inclement weather or a weather advisory. Attached is the Department of Education's policy on Outdoor Play.

Weather Appropriate Clothing:

It is imperative that all students be sent to school with weather appropriate clothing. Hats, scarves, gloves, coats and sweaters are highly suggested. Bundling up the students in layers gives them the advantage to have extra clothing even indoors. Make sure the extra clothing that is stored in your child's classroom is also weather appropriate.

Illnesses:

This season is cold season. Therefore, please check to make sure your child is well enough to come to school. If your child has a fever, coughing uncontrollably, has an abundance of mucus that is not clear and appears discolored, diarrhea, or nausea your child may not be well enough to attend school. Please contact the school if your child will be absent. Keep in mind any child that is out of school for 3 or more days must return with a doctor's note or a note explaining the absence if it is not due to illness.

Flu Vaccination:

If your child has not had the flu vaccine between August 1st and December 31st of 2019 and you have not submitted proof to the office your child cannot return to school on January 2nd until proof of the vaccine has been submitted. *If your child receives the flu shot over the winter break, when your child returns to school, please stop by the office to submit proof of the vaccination before escorting your child to the classroom.*

Student Medicals:

All students must have a physical on file that is up to date (completed yearly). If your child's medical has expired your child cannot return to school until they receive their physical and proof has been submitted to the office.

Covers for Rest Time:

It is very important that you send your child to school with a sheet and blanket weekly (they will go home on Fridays to be washed to be used for the following week). All Students must have a cover over their cot. If this is not possible please speak to an office personnel.

- Use staff in a coordinated way so that one staff member helps children through transitions, while the other staff member moves those who are finished to the next activity
- Have students participate in getting things ready for the next activity

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to inform families of my daily schedule?

Yes, you must publicize your daily schedule with times in any program description made during the application and enrollment periods so that families may make informed choices during enrollment.

In addition, the daily schedule must be shared with families during family orientation or welcome events and should be prominently posted in the classroom for reference.

2. Should the classroom's written daily schedule be posted in the classroom?

Yes, your written daily schedule should be posted in the classroom where it can be easily seen by staff, substitutes, and families.

3. When is it appropriate to cancel outdoor play?

Adequate periods of outdoor play should be provided daily for all students. Low temperatures should not be a barrier to outside play, as long as students are appropriately dressed. In inclement weather, active play shall be encouraged and supported in safe indoor play areas. Students should not play outside on days when there is ice on the playground.

In instances of extreme heat, you are encouraged to utilize the NOAA's National Weather Service Heat Index to determine if outdoor play is appropriate.

For more information on the NOAA's National Weather Service Heat Index, please see the Facilities chapter of the Handbook.

You should use caution when taking students out in the heat and should make sure they are hydrated and in the shade if possible. Metal surfaces and other playground materials may become dangerously hot in direct sunlight. Test all equipment before use and keep students away from any objects that pose a safety hazard.

Considerations When Developing an Outdoor Play Policy

In developing a policy for when it is appropriate for students to be outside, you should consider the following:

- The DECE encourages programs to follow the recommendations of the New York City Office of Emergency Management or the National Weather Service when inclement weather is predicted.
- The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS-R), one of the DECE's primary tools for assessing program quality, recommends that programs minimize the days when students are unable to play outside.
- Students should be dressed properly and be allowed to play outdoors unless there is a "danger associated with the outdoor exposure."
- You should be flexible where there is bad weather and, if necessary, try to reschedule play time for a different time of the day.