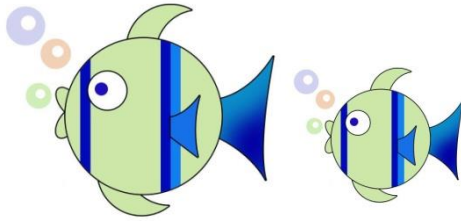


big fish - little fish montessori



SICK POLICY BROCHURE 2019

11 Marlborough Way

Parklands, 7441

Tel: 021 556-3453

Email: BFLF@telkomsa.net

Michelle: 073 250 8557

INTRODUCTION

The majority of parents are quite careful about children's health matters, about following policies that are more likely to ensure their health, and about sending children to school only when they are well. We are publishing our Policy Brochure in detail so that everyone can be sure of and informed about our policies regarding illness, biting, lice and other communicable diseases.

You are asked to read this updated document carefully, sign the signature section, separate it and return the signature portion only, retaining the policy and information sections for your reference.

Our policy is based on our commitment to help families stay well, both so that children can attend and derive the most benefit from their Montessori placement and so that the parents can be at their own schedules consistently.

However, it is also important for the sake of our entire program, so that we can more accurately protect the other children, as well as our staff, whose good health is directly related to their ability to maintain their consistent contributions as well.

SICK POLICY

In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment this policy provides guidance for staff and parents as to when children should or should not be in school if showing signs of sickness.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To ensure sick children are identified;
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately;
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection;
- To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell

ILLNESSES

- Children may only return to school if they have NOT had a fever WITHIN THE 24 HOURS PREVIOUS TO A SCHOOL MORNING. This means that even if a fever breaks, a child may not attend until 24 hours have elapsed since the fever breaks. This is standard medical policy and parents may verify this with your doctor. A child cannot be given meds in the morning and sent to school – they must not need medication before they return to school.
- Since energy levels or fevers alone are not accurate indicators of illness, our staff will advise a child's parents that a child is not well even when given other factors in the absence of a fever, such as appearance, energy level, vomiting, etc. A fever simply means that the child's body is fighting off a microbe invasion. A child can be very contagious and quite sick before a fever appears. Because our staff is careful, they know they are

required to be aware of each child's individual health “picture”, to watch children they suspect of illness and then to advise parents of their judgment.

If, in the judgment of a staff member, a child is deemed ill, parents must collect the child within a reasonable amount of time. This is important, both to safeguard the ill child, and to safeguard other children and staff from being exposed to an illness unnecessarily. Parents who directly or indirectly refuse to cooperate with this policy, will put their child's placement at Big Fish Little Fish at risk.

We cannot operate as a sick center, since we do not have a registered nurse on duty. Therefore, we cannot maintain a sick child for anytime other than the time needed for the parents to arrive. Sick children will wait for parents away from other children and teaching staff; they will be observed for changing or additional symptoms during the waiting period.

- If your child has vomited and/or had diarrhea do not send your child to school until it has ceased for a period of 24 hours.
- To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to parents who will be requested to take their child from school to seek medical advice from a GP surgery or Pharmacy. When treatment commences, the child may return to school.

- Do not send children to school who display a greenish discharge, as this is an indication of an active infection. Should you feel your child is well enough to attend school and the staff disagree, you must obtain a letter from your doctor clearing your child before she / he will be allowed at school.

MEDICINES

➤ **After the Antibiotics**

Many contagious illnesses require a course of antibiotics. Treatment needs to be under way for at least 48 hours before your child can return to school.

➤ **Medicine at school**

Unless there are follow up antibiotics that need to be taken during school hours, medicine should not be brought to school at all.

If your child has required Panado / Calpol on the morning before being brought to school then they are too ill to be here. Any medication brought to school should be for emergency use only or prescription.

Should you need to bring medicine to school, please remember that it is to be placed and collected by you from the medicine box. Every single dose, needs to be recorded in the Medicine Book DAILY. Please do not leave any medicine in your child bag. Parents are asked to please take note that we are not a nursing centre.

If your child is in need of medication they really should not be at school at all (and we will make an exception at our own discretion as per the school Sick Policy).

The school does not keep any “stock” medicines on the premises

Communicable diseases

While respecting the confidentiality of each child, only when more than one isolated case of any communicable disease is reported will the rest of BFLF parents be informed. Childhood diseases can be picked up from other family members, shopping centre, restaurants, etc , While we wish to remain transparent about what is happening in the school, we also do not wish to create unnecessary concern.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMON COLDS and THE FLU

COMMON COLD

The common cold is a contagious upper respiratory infection caused by cold viruses. It is the most frequent childhood illness. Symptoms can last 7 to 14 days. A child with no fever, mild symptoms and otherwise feeling well may be fine at school. Colds are spread when the germs in nasal mucus and saliva are coughed into the air or picked up on hands, toys and food

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL:

A child with heavy cold symptoms such as deep or uncontrollable coughing or significant lack of energy belongs at home even without a fever. See additional information on fever and influenza.

Symptoms: Usually come on gradually

Fever: Rare in adults and older children, but can be as high as 40° in infants and small children

Cough: Mild, hacking cough

Headache: Rare

Muscle aches: Mild

Tiredness/weakness: Mild

Extreme exhaustion: Never

Vomiting/diarrhea: Never

Runny Nose: Often

Sneezing: Often

Sore throat: Often

FLU (INFLUENZA)

The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses and can cause mild to severe illness. A person with influenza can be contagious up to one week after symptoms appear. Children are one of the biggest sources for spreading the flu. To help decrease the spread of regular seasonal flu:

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL:

A child with flu-like illness (fever and cough) must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever reducing medicine. A fever is defined as a temperature of 38 or higher. If symptoms occur while at school, the student must be picked up as soon as possible to go home.

Symptoms: Usually come on quickly

Fever: Typically as high as 38°, but can rise to 40° and usually lasts 3 to 4 days

Cough: Often, can be severe

Headache: Sudden onset, can be severe

Muscle aches: Usual, can be severe

Tiredness/weakness: Can last 2 or more weeks

Extreme exhaustion: Sudden onset, can be severe

Vomiting/diarrhea: Sometimes

Runny Nose: Sometimes

Sneezing: Sometimes

Sore throat: Sometimes

LICE AND NITS

While I understand this is very frustrating problem, very common among school children, please understand that this is not a school problem as we are unable to control the fact that children are sent to school with an unidentified problem.

It is imperative that all parents check their children on a regular basis. Please help eradicate the spread if you identify nits / lice in your child.

Parents will be notified if any children are identified with nits, they will be allowed to stay at school until end day and parents will be responsible to treat their hair in the evening. Children may return to school the next day if there is a noticeable decrease in the amount of nits present. Children found with live lice need to be collected as soon as the school has made contact with you. They need to be treated with the necessary products; ALL traces of lice need to be removed. No children will be allowed to return if any live lice are present.

Please be sure to wash all linen, soft toys, hair bands, hats, etc and it must be tumble dried. The treatment process should be repeated on a weekly basis to ensure the cycle has broken and no more nits / lice are present.

BITING POLICY

Biting is unfortunately not unexpected behaviour for toddlers. Some children and many toddlers communicate through this behaviour. However, biting can be harmful to other children and to staff. This biting policy has been developed with both of these ideas in mind.

Although it is not uncommon for very young children to bite, it is a behaviour that is taken very seriously, and is strongly discouraged.

Whenever a child is bitten, the teacher's first task is to comfort the bitten child. The biter will be placed in "Time Out" (for minute's equivalent to their age). Next, the wound will be washed and ice applied if necessary.

If the bite has broken the skin, the parents will be contacted immediately.

The teacher will then return to "Time Out" and speak with the offending child about what has happened. The child is reminded that teeth are for eating food & smiling, not for biting.

However, if the bite is superficial, and the child has returned to play, then both sets of parents will be advised of the incident which will be recorded in your child's diary. The identity of the "Biter" will not be given to any parents.

When a child under the age of 2 bites, it is generally for one of the following reasons:

Out of curiosity – "what will happen if I.....ouch!"

Out of ownership – trying to get something from another child.....ouch!

Out of frustration – due to non-communicative skillsouch!

When Biting Continues:

- At the 2nd Incident, Time Out will take place in the office.
- The child will be shadowed to help prevent any biting incidents.
- The child will be observed by the classroom staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.)
- The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behaviour.

When Biting becomes Excessive:

- If a child inflicts 3 bites in a one week period (5 weekdays) in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child's behaviour and how the behaviour may be modified
- If a child continues to bite and all disciplinary measures have failed, the child might be subject to expulsion.

I have read the Policy Brochure of Big Fish Little Fish Montessori and agree to abide thereby.

.....

Signature of Parent

.....

Date

.....

Name of Child/red

Please return this page to the school at your earliest convenience