

When to Exclude Children from Child Care

When a child care provider notices that a child is obviously not feeling well, the child needs to be assessed, and regulations should be checked to determine if the child can remain at the facility. A child should not be admitted for care if one or more of the following applies to that child:



- ▶ The child is not comfortably able to participate in scheduled activities.
- ▶ There is a need for more care than usual for this child, which compromises the health, safety, and supervision of the other children.
- ▶ The child has an elevated temperature of 101 °F orally (in the mouth), 102 °F rectally (in the bottom), or 100 °F axillary (under the arm).
- ▶ Other signs of illness or behavioral changes are present, such as lethargy, abnormal breathing (such as heavy breathing, wheezing, or shallow breathing), uncontrolled diarrhea, two or more vomiting episodes in a 24-hour period, or rash with a fever.

If none of these symptoms apply, accept the child into care and proceed with the routine and schedule of the day. Only designated get-well centers have the facilities and regulations to care for ill children, unless the child exhibits the symptoms of excludable illness or injury. If a child appears to not feel well, but the child is quite young and has a limited vocabulary, have the child point to a “sick” doll to explain where he or she hurts or feels bad. When in doubt about a child’s illness, contact their parent and communicate your concerns.