

May 27, 2011

Dear King's Kids Families,

Recently, our staff completed Maryland State Department of Education training for medication administration. This training was to educate staff on the new health and medication administration regulations being implemented by the state of Maryland for all childcare centers.

Below, you will find the primary changes that may affect you and your child on a regular basis during your time at King's Kids. PLEASE, take the time to read this paperwork, ask questions and express concerns. These changes will be effective July 1, 2011.

Medications or Treatments that WILL NOT be provided by child care staff:

- Homeopathic or herbal treatments
- Cough Drops (choking hazard)
- Prescribed and Non – Prescribed Medications with “As Needed” timeframe.
- Fever Reducer to infants 4 MONTHS or under.
- Medications (prescribed or otherwise) in alternating form. *We know that in some cases, doctors prescribe Tylenol and Motrin in alternating intervals and while this is still considered safe, CHILD CARE CENTERS are no longer permitted to do so.*

Medications approved for application at childcare WITHOUT prescription or staff documentation:

- **Lip Balm** – Non-medication, without flavor, scent, color or dye ONLY.
- **Diaper/Skin Cream/Vaseline** – for over-the-counter creams, we will not require prescription or documentation. If you chose to have any skin cream or preventative lotion, please provide the type desired and your child's caregiver will label the container and store it appropriately. *You will need to seek medical attention for your child if the rash, does not improve in 48 hours, is blistered, severally red, and/or painful, oozing fluid or cracked/open.*
- **Teething Soothers** – Only cold or hard teethers are acceptable. Topical anesthetics contain benzocaine and/or alcohol and are not recommended because they may be ingested, therefore, WILL NOT be permitted at the center.
- **Sunscreen** –30 SPF or greater is recommended. (K.K. will still provide appropriate sunscreen, unless your child has an allergy and requires a specific lotion to prevent rash. We will not require prescription/documentation in sunscreen cases, either).

**All Medications** (other than those listed above):

- MUST be prescribed by a physician
- The first dose of the day MUST be administered by the doctor or parent

- A new measuring dropper, spoon or cup **MUST** be provided **DAILY** for the duration of medication administration.
- If **ORAL**, the child may **NOT** return to care for 24 hours, to ensure no adverse reactions to the medication. *This is for EACH time a child starts a new medication. Example: If the child has chronic ear infections, receives an antibiotic, completes the antibiotic, and in the next month contracts another ear infection, the same process begins again.*

**If your child requires medication at home and at school, please remember to ask the pharmacist to split the dose into two separate containers. This will cut down on paperwork and “remembering” to take medications home and return them the next day.**

If your child has a medically diagnosed allergy, King’s Kids **MUST** have, documented by **DOCTOR**, and on file:

- Allergen
- **DETAILED** description of allergic reactions/symptoms
- Form of intervention required, should the child contact the diagnosed allergen.
- What, if any, medications have been prescribed as a preventative form of care (i.e., Claritin)
- (If necessary) Epi-Pen with proper prescription documentation prepared.

## **Exclusion from Care**

Children may be excluded for medical reason related to communicable diseases or due to program or staffing requirements.

*In general, children should be excluded when:*

- *They are not able to fully participate with the program.*
- *The level of care needed during an illness is not able to be met without jeopardizing the health and safety of the other children*
- *When there is an unavoidable risk of spread to other children or environment*

Children **WILL** be excluded from care at King’s Kids if they acquire any of the following during their time in care. Unless otherwise specified, children are to remain at home until **24 hours** after resolution of symptoms, or doctor documentation identifies the illness as non-contagious:

### **Fever**

Defined as a temperature **100.4\*** by ear thermometer, **100\*** by axillary (armpit).

### **Common Cold**

Defined as runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, chills, sore throat, cough, and general body discomfort lasting 2 to 7 days; may be accompanied by low-grade fever.

*The cold symptoms a child **WILL** be sent home for are, fever, and green discharge from the nose or the child being too uncomfortable to fully participate in activities.*

### **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**

Cough, which becomes repeated and violent within 1-2 weeks and can persist for several months. Often leads to thick mucus and vomiting after coughing. Fever MAY be absent or low-grade.

*Suggested exclusion for confirmed diagnosis is the first 5 days of antibiotic treatment.*

### **Strep**

Defined by various symptoms, depending on where this bacteria causes infection: ear, eye, sinus, lungs, blood, joints, or spinal fluid spaces.

### **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)**

Defined as pink or red whites of the eye(s), usually accompanied with white or yellow discharge, redness and swelling of the lids, and matted, sticky lids.

### **Diarrhea**

Defined as loose or watery stools of increased frequency, that is not associated (by MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS) to a change in diet.

### **Vomiting**

Defined as TWO or more episodes of vomiting in a 24-hour period.

*If a child vomits ONCE during care, they will be excluded.*

### **Allergic Reaction**

Defined as:

- Hives or rash spreading over the body
- Wheezing, difficult swallowing or breathing
- Flushing, swelling of the lips, face/neck/tongue, throat, hands and feet
- Tingling and swelling of tongue
- Nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramps
- Signs of shock (extreme paleness/grey color, clammy skin)
- Loss of consciousness

### **Lice (head or body)**

Asymptomatic itching and/or redness, accompanied by nits (eggs) on or attached to hair, and/or crawling lice seen on nape of neck, behind ears, in the eyebrows and eyelashes.

*Excluded until 24 hours **after** appropriate care/insecticide.*

As in the past, we will call the parent contact numbers first, followed by the emergency contact persons, in the order listed.

In the case of a non-life threatening emergency, center staff will allow 10 minutes from the time of the first call, before contacting local EMS for extended care.

In the case of an illness, injury or fever, center staff will allow 30 minutes to pass without parental contact, before documentation. A family receiving 3 no-responses to illness documentations during their enrollment at King's Kids will be expelled from care at this center.

***A family medicating a child WITHOUT informing the staff, and/or bringing the child for care less than 24 hours after administration of the medication, may result in expulsion from the center.***

While we understand that this may be somewhat overwhelming, please bear in mind, that these changes are affecting us in the same manner. King's Kids staff is sympathetic to the inconveniences these changes may cause, however, as a state licensed facility; we must abide by all rules handed down to us, and remember that in the end, it is for the betterment of your child's care and safety.

We have attached some of the forms you may need to begin the process of required paperwork and the necessary documents will be on the sign-in/out table, for instances when your child is taken from King's Kids and to the doctor for care. Also, it will be a great advantage to you (and everyone involved) to notify your child's doctor of the new standards, as it is our understanding, they were not involved in the process.

Thank you for your cooperation in this and all matters within King's Kids and the care provided for your child(ren).

Kristin Long – Center Director

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By signing this form, I/we, as parent(s)/guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read and understand the above information for Medication Administration and Health Guidelines, created by the State of Maryland and King's Kids Child Care Center.

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Parent Signature/Date

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Parent Signature/Date