

## Health Policy

The overarching purpose of our health policy is to maximize the good health of the greatest number of children (and their families) who attend YoungerMusik. If your child becomes ill on a day he or she is not attending YoungerMusik, please inform me via email or by phone so that I can assess potential exposure to the other children. If your child will not be coming to the day care on his or her scheduled day due to illness or any contagious condition, please call us at 718 755-1179 the day before or the morning of daycare. We are interested in minimizing contagion, and to that end, we ask that you diligently follow the guidelines outlined below.

**Fever:** When a child has a fever of 100F or higher, s/he must stay home until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours. If a fever develops while your child is at YoungerMusik, you will be called and asked to pick up your child as soon as possible. immediately following your arrival.

**Antibiotics:** A child with a condition for which antibiotics have been prescribed may not come to daycare until a minimum of 24 hours have passed since s/he has taken his or her first dose. The child must also be feeling well enough to fully participate in the YoungerMusik's daily schedule.

**Vomiting:** A vomiting child must stay at home or go home if s/he becomes ill while at YoungerMusik.

**Diarrhea:** A child with severe or persistent diarrhea must stay at (or go) home. You will be called and asked to come for your child.

**Strep throat:** While children ages 1-3 rarely contract strep throat, it does occasionally happen and can exhibit a wide range of symptoms. You should have your doctor check for strep if your child has a fever, rash, vomiting, and/or sore throat. □□**Roseola, coxsackie, Fifth's Disease, etc.:** If your child has a contagious disease, he or she must stay home until all contagion has passed.

**About Contagion:** Determining whether or not a child is well enough to attend daycare is not as black and white as these guidelines. When your child is fairly ill, in the early stages of a cold, for instance, not able to cope with the routines of daycare, an/or is feeling lousy, he or she should not be brought in, even in the absence of a fever. At the outset of a fresh cold, if your child is sneezing and/or coughing regularly, he or she should not come to daycare. This is the most contagious stage of a cold, with a height viral load. Out of consideration of the other families in the program and the staff your child should not be at YoungerMusik if he or she is not well. If, during the course of the day, a child is deemed by the staff as too sick to be at daycare, you will be called and asked to

take your child home. Again, this may occur even in the absence of a fever.

**About Runny Noses:** Runny noses are inevitable among toddlers and young preschoolers. Causes can vary, ranging from allergies and cutting teeth, to viruses, among other causes. If the cause is clearly not the beginning of a new cold and the nose is running clear your child may come to daycare. If there is any question, just give me a call and we will decide how to proceed. Children with running green and goopy noses are not well enough to be at daycare.

It is important to follow these guidelines. They are designed to foster a common respect and responsibility to protect the children from contagious illness.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** On any day that you will be at a telephone number different from those on your emergency form, please notify at least one staff member in case we need to contact you. Thank you.