



ILLNESS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Bloom Learning Centre prioritises the health and well-being of the children and staff in our centre. We believe a child needs to be fit and well to fully benefit from the learning experiences. We also believe that the wellness of our staff is reflected in their practice. To protect the well-being and health of all children and staff we encourage children and staff to rest and recover at home.

AIMS:

At Bloom Learning Centre we aim to provide children with an environment where:

- *health is promoted.*
- *emotional well-being is nurtured.*
- *all are kept safe from harm.*

OBJECTIVES:

Bloom Learning Centre's objective of this illness policy is to ensure that our practices and decisions regarding illness are reasonable and fair.

During the time, your child is with us there may be occasions when they will be affected by illness. This may mean that your child will be unable to attend Bloom Learning Centre. Time away from the Bloom Learning Centre will allow your child to recover and will also protect the health of the other children, families, and staff members. We understand that this often places parents/ guardians under extra pressure. We are guided in our decisions regarding illness by Cayman Islands Public Health which require us to take appropriate action when a child is unwell.

COMMUNICATION:

Bloom Learning Centre asks parents/guardians to discuss concerns about your child's health and well-being at any time. If you are worried that your child may be unwell share this information with us as soon as you can. We all need to be vigilant and alert to any changes in behaviour or signs of illness and respond to the child's needs quickly.

At Bloom Learning Centre we believe that parents and our staff share the responsibility for creating a healthy early childhood centre environment, which will protect and nurture our children.



PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide the centre with up-to-date emergency contact numbers.
- Discuss concerns about children's health with staff at the centre.
- Let staff know if you have given medicine to your child during the night or prior to arriving at the centre.
- Provide written authority for any medication required while the child is at the Centre, completing the required medication authorization form.
- Children should be collected within one hour if unwell.
- Allow your child time to recover before returning to Bloom Learning Centre.
- If you are worried about your child's health, please seek advice from your child's doctor before bringing your child to the centre.
- Provide details of immunisations that your child has had at the time of enrolment.

BLOOM LEARNING CENTRE'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Contact parent/guardian if there are concerns about a child's health and may ask for the child to be taken home.
- First aid will be administered where required.
- Children who are unwell will rest in the sick bay away from other children until collected.
- Efforts will be made to ensure children are comfortable and emotionally supported.
- If we are concerned that a child may be unwell, we will keep a record of the child's day detailing any changes in behaviour, symptoms, temperature recordings, food & drink consumption, and any authorised medication given.
- Provide authorised medication, document time, dosage, and time of administration.
- Medical help will be sought if a child becomes more ill.
- We may suggest that you consult your child's doctor.
- The Centre reserves the right to request a doctor's note or medical clearance at any time before a child returns to the centre following illness.
- We will obtain up-to-date health information and advice from Public Health as needed.

GENERAL CONDITIONS INDICATING THAT A CHILD SHOULD NOT ATTEND BLOOM LEARNING CENTRE:

- Illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in Centre activities
- Illness results in a greater care need than Bloom Learning Centre can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of other children and/or staff
- Anyone requiring antibiotics should remain at home for the first 24 hours



- Bloom Learning Centre requests that children remain fever free for twenty-four hours without medication before returning to our centre.

SPECIFIC ILLNESSES/SYMPTOMS INDICATING THAT A CHILD SHOULD NOT ATTEND BLOOM LEARNING CENTRE:

The following guidelines on illness are provided by the Cayman Islands Health Services (**HSA**) as found in Appendix 1. Bloom Learning Centre requests that parents follow these guidelines.

- A child with **CHICKEN POX** should remain home until all lesions are crusted over, about 5-7 days.
- **CONJUNCTIVITIS** (PINK EYE) -
 - a) BACTERIAL – child should remain home from the time his/her eyes become red and draining until 24 hours after commencing antibiotics.
 - b) VIRAL- contagious for 5-7 days.
- **DIARRHEA AND/OR VOMITING** - child should be kept at home until he/she is symptom free for 24 hours.
- **TEMPERATURE** of 100-degree Fahrenheit or above- child should be kept home until he/she is symptom free for 24 hours.
- **THROAT INFECTION** - child should be kept home until 24 hours after commencing antibiotics.
- **EAR INFECTION** - child can be in the centre 24 hours after commencing antibiotics; and pain is not severe to prevent child from participate in activities.
- **PEDICULUS (HEAD LICE)** - child can be in the centre once treatment has started, however he/she should be excluded from activities likely to cause exposure to other children.
- **RINGWORM** - child can return to the centre once treatment has started, however should be excluded from activities likely to cause exposure to other children.
- **IMPETIGO** - Child should be kept home until treatment has started and all the lesions are crusted over.
- **COLD & FLU** - if symptoms are mild, child can be at the centre. The child should be kept home if he/she does not feel well, has a persistent cough, or is congested. Child should be kept home until fever has subsided for 24 hours.
- **COVID-19** – Follow current government health protocols.

MEDICINE:

When children require medication during the day, Bloom Learning Centre will accommodate this need for both prescription and non-prescription medication. These guidelines must be followed:

- Parent/guardian completes a permission to administer medication form prior to medication being kept at our centre and being given to the child. This form will be kept on the child's record. Bloom Learning Centre Permission to Administer Medication Form is found in Appendix 2.
- When the prescribed dosage is three times per day, the first and last dosages will be administered at home, Bloom Learning will only administer the midday dosage.
- Prescription medication is properly labelled by a pharmacy marked with the child's name.
- Non-prescription medication provided by the family is given following directions by the manufacture.
- Vitamins, herbal remedies, natural supplements, and homeopathic products will not be administered at the centre and must be given at home.
- All medications will be administered to the child by the assigned staff member. A record of all medicine (prescription and non-prescription) given to the child will be recorded on Bloom Learning Centre's Medication Record Form found in Appendix 3.
- Medication will be stored out of reach of all children and refrigerated if required. All medication is to be stored in the admin office designated locker. If refrigeration is required, the medicine shall be stored in the kitchen fridge wherein children will not have any access (child locked).

Medication Type	Number of Days Permitted to Stay on the Premises	Storage Location
Over the Counter	5 days (or longer at administrator's discretion)	Office Medication Locker or Kitchen Fridge
Prescription	Duration of prescription	Office Medication Locker or Kitchen Fridge
Mild/Moderate Allergy Medication	As needed or until expiration (whichever is first)	Office Medication Locker or Kitchen Fridge
Indicated by Individual Medical Plan/Sheet	As needed or until expiration (whichever is first)	Office Medication Locker or Kitchen Fridge
Emergency Medication	As needed or until expiration (whichever is first)	Emergency Backpack or Emergency Medication Bin



ISOLATION AREA/SICK BAY:

Bloom Learning Centre isolation area is located at the Administrative Office.

A child who becomes sick while at Bloom Learning Centre will be cared for in the isolation area/sick bay. A staff member will remain with the child and keep the child comfortable. The child's parent/guardian will be called and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible. Once the child is collected by the parent/guardian the isolation area/sick bay will be sanitized. The illness will be noted in the illness log.

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I, _____, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the Centre's Illness Policy. I understand that this policy is part of the Bloom Learning Centre's Parent Handbook, which will be updated accordingly.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

HSA Infectious Disease



GUIDELINES ON ILLNESS AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

1. **CHICKEN POX** – a child should remain at home until all lesions are crusted over, about 5-7 days.
2. **CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)** –
 - a. **BACTERIAL** – the child should remain at home from the time their eyes become red and draining until 24 hours after commencing antibiotics.
 - b. **VIRAL**- the child should remain at home for 5-7 days during the contagious period.
3. **DIARRHEA AND/OR VOMITING**- The child should be kept at home until they are symptoms free for 24 hours.
4. **A TEMPERATURE** of 100-degree Fahrenheit or above- a child should be kept at home until they are symptoms free for 24 hours.
5. **THROAT INFECTION**- children should be kept at home until 24 hours after commencing antibiotics.
6. **EAR INFECTION**- children can be in school 24 hours after commencing antibiotics; and pain is not severe to prevent children from participating in activities.
7. **PEDICULUS (HEAD LICE)** - a child can be in school once treatment has started, however that child should be excluded from activities likely to cause exposure to other children.
8. **RINGWORM**- the child can return to school once treatment has started; however, the child should be excluded from activities likely to cause exposure to other children.
9. **IMPETIGO**- The child should be kept at home until treatment has started and all the lesions are crusted over.
10. **COLD & FLU**- if symptoms are mild, the child can be in school. The child should be kept at home
 - a. if they generally do not feel well, they have a persistent cough or if they are congested.
 - b. until fever has subsided for 24 hours.
11. **HAND FOOT and MOUTH DISEASE** – If your child has HFMD, your child should be kept at home until feeling better usually after 7–10 days.
12. **COVID 19** – Kindly adhere to current government health protocols.
13. **SCARLET FEVER** – The child should be kept at home until fever has subsided for 24 hours, or at least 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic therapy and the child is feeling better.

APPENDIX 2

Medication Permission Form



MEDICATION CONSENT FORM

First & Last Name of CHILD:			
Type/Name of Medication:	Prescription #:	Dosage:	Route (method)*:
Start date:	End Date:	Times & frequency:	
REASON:			
I give permission for the administration of the medication, according to the instructions listed, to the child listed above.			
Date of authorization:	Signature (parent/guardian):		

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS TO WATCH FOR WITH THIS MEDICATION

Attach health care provider's written authorization.

FOR STAFF REVIEW PRIOR TO ADMINISTERING MEDICATION:	YES	NO
Is the medication form complete?	☐	☐
Is the original prescription label on the medication container or prepackaged and labeled for use by manufacturer?	☐	☐
Is the full name of the child on the container?	☐	☐
Is the prescription or over-the-counter medication current?	☐	☐
Is the dose, name of drug, frequency of administration given on label consistent with instructions above?	☐	☐
Staff Initials: _____		

(MC1-2021) Medical Consent Form

T: (345) 746-4444 | E: info@bloom.ky | W: www.bloom.ky

APPENDIX 3

Medication Record Form

