

## **UWEC Children's Nature Academy**

### **Sick Child Policy Amendment: COVID-19 template**

The safety and wellbeing of all staff, children, and the families at the Children's Nature Academy continues to be of utmost importance to us. We always commit to taking all precautions toward keeping children and staff safe and healthy, including the current time of the COVID-19 outbreak. Following this additional sick child policy will help the Children's Nature Academy to do this.

Children will be monitored for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 daily. **Children will be asked to stay home or return home if any of the following applies:**

- Have a fever of 100.4 or higher
- Have had a fever of 100.4 or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours
- Have come in contact with others who have COVID-19
- They have cold symptoms accompanied by a fever or are too young to cover a cough or sneeze.

During this time the program will not be administering fever reducing medications, which may disguise symptoms.

#### **To prevent the spread of COVID-19:**

- Children with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to others with COVID-19 will be asked to stay home.
- Children who develop signs/symptoms of COVID-19 while at the program will be immediately separated from others and the program staff will contact the family member and/or emergency contact to pick the child up within 1 hour.
- We encourage families to practice frequent handwashing at home
- Upon arrival, we ask that that children and the adults dropping off/picking up wash their hands before going to the classroom
- The Children's Nature Academy staff will practice handwashing upon arrival to the program, before meals and snacks, after outdoor play, after using the bathroom, prior to going home, after nose blowing or assisting a child with blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Cover cough and sneezes with tissues, throw tissues in the trash, and clean hands with soap and water or
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks
- Please stagger drop off time so we have a limited amount of people in the lobby and classrooms at any given time.

#### **If an enrolled child or employee tests positive for COVID-19:**

- The local public health department and the Department of Children and Families Bureau of Early Care Regulation will be contacted. The Children's Nature Academy will follow their guidance for next steps
- The program will post and notify families of any confirmed staff or child cases of COVID-19

**Returning to a child care facility after suspected COVID-19 symptoms**

If a staff member or child has symptoms of COVID-19 or is in close contact with someone with COVID-19, they can return to the child care facility if the following conditions are met:

- If an individual has a fever, cough or shortness of breath and has not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they can return to the center no sooner than 72 hours after the fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms get better. If the person’s symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of the program for a minimum of 7 days after the onset of first symptoms. They may return under the following conditions:
  - If they had a fever: 3 days after the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medication AND there is improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
  - If they did not have a fever: 3 days after they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)

I, (family member name) \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to the above sick child policy amendment.

Parent or Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Although staff members are diligent in washing toys and maintaining safety practice, there is no guarantee that a child will not be exposed to COVID 19 within our childcare facility. If this should happen all families will be notified, and the program will follow the guidelines of the Eau Claire Health Department and UWEC risk management.

I have read and understand the above statement and recognize and accept responsibility for bringing my child to the Children’s Nature Academy under these conditions.

Parent