



Soapstone Preschool

2026-2027 HEALTH POLICIES

Soapstone Preschool has adopted the following "Recommendations from the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics" and recommendations from the North Carolina Childhood Commission as our general guidelines for sickness. Soapstone Preschool follows the [American Academy of Pediatrics Immunization Schedule](#) (chart found on page 2).

We proudly partner with our families to help prevent the spread of illness at Soapstone Preschool. It is the responsibility of our families to contact your child's pediatrician to determine if your child's condition is contagious to others. If your child has a contagious illness, families must contact the preschool. Likewise, the preschool will notify families when their children have been exposed to a contagious disease at the preschool.

Children may not attend preschool if they exhibit any of the following:

***Indicates a condition in which a doctor's note is required for return.**

FEVER: If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, children may not return to school until they are 24-hours fever-free WITHOUT fever-reducing medication.

INTESTINAL INFECTION: (vomiting and/or diarrhea) not associated with changes of diet, or new medication. Children may not return to school until they are 24 hours without vomit and/or diarrhea. **If a child is sent home from school due to vomiting or diarrhea, they may not return to school the next day.**

STREP THROAT: Children may NOT return to school until given two doses of an appropriate antibiotic 12 hours apart.

COMMON COLD: 1) congestion and/or 2) persistent and discolored runny nose, and/or 3) frequent cough/wet cough. We require symptoms to be minimal and improving upon return to school (without medication).

FLU (INFLUENZA): Children may return to school once he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, Tamiflu, etc. AND he/she is no longer exhibiting symptoms of the flu. We reserve the right to ask a parent to keep their child home for additional day(s) to keep the flu from spreading in the classroom.

COVID: Children may return to school once he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours, with minimal and improving symptoms - without any fever/symptom-reducing medicine. We reserve the right to ask a parent to keep their child home for additional day(s) to keep COVID from spreading in the classroom.

RASH: accompanied by a fever or behavioral changes OR skin infections (impetigo, boils, ringworm).

EYE INFECTIONS: (pink eye or drainage) – Children must be on medication for a full 24 hours before returning to school.

***CROUP**

***HAND, FOOT, MOUTH:** If your child exhibits bumps or rashes (particularly on their face, around their mouth, hands/feet), they can return to school **with a doctor's note** and if they have met the following criteria: *fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication), no new blisters/lesions and existing blisters/lesions have closed/begun healing, and children can participate comfortably. This can typically take up to 7 days after symptoms have appeared.*

LICE: Head lice is a reality of living in a community and as such, sometimes will show up in our school. *There is no shame or stigma, it just happens.* Any child with diagnosed head lice will need to remain home for 24 hours after the initial treatment has been administered (not 24 hours after being notified). After that time, children can return to the preschool. Please make sure you inform the preschool if your child has lice so that we can take appropriate actions in the classrooms.

Lice treatment information will be distributed to you if your child is in a class with a confirmed case. Impacted families (in the immediate classroom) will receive an initial notification for a confirmed case, with a reminder to monitor your child's symptoms. Weekly updates will then be provided, if necessary.

Siblings of children with known cases of lice who attend the preschool must be treated for lice, too. If siblings show no nits or lice, they can return to the preschool once treated.

***OTHER CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:** If your child is exposed or becomes ill with a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, mumps, measles, fifth disease, etc., the director and the child's teacher must be contacted immediately.

- If your child will miss preschool (for any reason), please message your teacher and/or the preschool director in Procare or via email. It is essential that we can reach you, or your emergency contacts, during the preschool hours.
- If a family member is exhibiting a contagious illness above, the preschool requests that you keep your child at home in the interest of the health and wellbeing of the other students and staff at Soapstone Preschool.
- Medical history and current immunization record must be on file before any child may attend preschool. **Children with food allergies/medications must have a separate Food Allergy/Medication Action Plan on file.**