

Health Update

Monday June 8, 2009

Scarlet Fever

Dear Parents:

I would like to inform you that we have a case of scarlet fever in one of our preschool classes.

Scarlet fever is a highly contagious childhood disease caused by a bacteria called streptococcus. It can be spread through sneezing, coughing, or sharing contaminated objects. This infection is characterized by a **reddened sore throat, fever, and a bright red rash** covering the body. The rash looks like a sunburn and may itch. Other symptoms may include chills, body aches, nausea & vomiting, and loss of appetite.

If your child has these symptoms, please see your healthcare provider. **Scarlet fever can cause further complications if left untreated.**

If it is confirmed that your child has scarlet fever, please notify the school and keep your child at home until they have been on **antibiotics for 24 hours and are free of fever.**

If you have other children at home, please keep the ill child's drinking glasses and utensils separate. Encourage frequent hand-washing, and quickly dispose of any tissues with bodily fluids. It's also a good idea to buy a new toothbrush for your child to prevent re-infection.

For further information, I recommend the website: www.kidshealth.org

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Alison
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