



## **WHEN IS YOUR CHILD TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL**

To school or not to school?

That is the question facing parents as their usually excited, hungry child sits quietly at the breakfast table ignoring their cereal.

**The following guidelines were developed to assist parents in making the decision whether or not to send their child to school.**

**TEMPERATURE-** A child's temperature should be normal (98.6 orally or 99.6 rectally) for 24 hours before sending them to school. For example, if your child has a fever in the evening, they should not come to school the next morning even if their temperature is normal. Temperatures are lower in the morning and fever may occur again in the afternoon.

**DIARRHEA-** Loose stools have many causes. Children should not come to school until the bowel movements are normal. If diarrhea continues or if the child has other symptoms, call your doctor.

**VOMITING-** Students need to stay home for 24 hours after the last time they vomit.

**COLDS-**Colds and runny noses are common in winter months. As long as there is no fever or discomfort, the child may go to school. Instruct your child on proper use of tissues for coughing, sneezing and nose blowing. Also, children should be instructed on good hand washing techniques as colds are spread by contaminated hands or articles. If cold symptoms are severe -thick, greenish nasal discharge or frequent coughing that interferes with your child's or other's learning -keep your child at home.

**EARACHE-** Hearing is the most important sense for learning, so never ignore an earache. Keep your child at home and contact your doctor. In case of ear discharge, even without pain, notify your doctor as this generally means a ruptured eardrum.

Conditions such as **lice, scabies, impetigo, ringworm, pinworm and pink eye** must be treated before the child returns to school. In the case of lice, all nits (eggs) must be removed from the hair.

In case of **strep throat** or other conditions in which your child returns to school while still on antibiotics, you must have a consent signed by you and your doctor for staff to give your child the medications and the container must be labeled by the pharmacist. **NO SAMPLES.**

Other signs that your child may be in the early stages of a health problem may include changes in your child's normal behavior such as irritability, lethargy, loss of appetite, etc..

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school nurse, at 882-4688 .

