



Sequatchie Valley Planning & Development Agency
Sequatchie Valley Head Start

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

_____ A child in our program has diarrheal disease.

_____ Your child may have diarrheal disease.

Information about diarrheal diseases:

What are they? Diarrheal diseases are caused by germs (bacteria, parasites, or viruses) that multiply in the intestines and are passed out of the body in the stool. Anyone can get diarrheal diseases and they can be caught repeatedly. People with these germs in their stool may not actually have diarrhea or feel sick. Laboratory tests are the only way to tell if a particular stool contains germs.

Please take the following precautions:

1. Watch your child and members of your family to see if they develop diarrhea, stomach cramps, gas, and/or nausea.
2. If your child develops severe diarrhea, diarrhea with fever or vomiting, or diarrhea with blood or mucus, **do not send your child to the center.**
3. If your child develops mild diarrhea, **please call us** to discuss whether attendance is recommended
4. In either case, we may ask your health care provider to do the tests for bacteria and parasites in the stool. We may ask you to obtain tests for your child and for other family members who develop diarrhea.
5. Be sure to remind your health provider that your child is in a childcare program so the implications for the child's management and the needs of the other children can be considered. If your child's test is positive, keep your child home until any serious diarrhea or illness is over and our program's health consultant determines whether any special precautions are required for your child to return.