



Sequatchie Valley Planning & Development Agency  
**Sequatchie Valley Head Start**

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_ A child in our program has scabies.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child may have scabies.

**Information about scabies:**

*What is it?* Scabies is a common skin rash caused by microscopic animals called mites that are found only on people. The mite digs under the skin and lays eggs that hatch. The new mites dig more paths and lay more eggs. The rash appears as red bumps and short, wavy lines in the skin (where the mites have dug.) It is especially common between fingers and toes and at the wrist and ankles, but can occur anywhere. The rash is intensely itchy. Scabies is not dangerous, but it is very annoying. Anyone can get scabies from another person who has it or from clothes or bedding used by a person with scabies. The mites cannot jump or fly, but they can crawl. They can live for 3 days off the body.

*What to do if your child has scabies:*

1. See your health care provider to get medicine to treat the scabies.
2. Wash all items such as clothes, hats, sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and towels that our child has used, in hot water. Dry these items on the hottest setting on the dryer.
3. Put things you do not want to wash (pillows, blankets, toys, stuffed animals) away in tight closed plastic bags for at least 4 days.
4. Thoroughly vacuum all carpets and upholstered furniture. Do not use pesticide sprays – they can be harmful to people and animals.

**Please take these precautions:**

1. During the next 6 weeks watch for signs of an itchy rash that usually appears in lines.
2. Take your child to your health care provider if a rash develops.
3. If your child does have scabies, let the staff at the center know.

*When can your child return to school?* Return your child to the program on the day after treatment was given. Your doctor may want to treat the whole family because scabies can spread so easily.