

# Home Away From Home Academy

**To: All Parents**

**From: Mr. V. and Nurse Davida**

**Date: November 10, 2009**

**Re: \*NEW\* "Return to School" Health Policy**

---

## Please READ the following IMPORTANT information!!

### The Key Points of the new Return to School Policy:

- It is the parent's responsibility to always notify the child's teacher of an absence due to illness. When you report this absence, please be specific about your child's symptoms and intention to see doctor. Remember to have a backup guardian to keep your child home if ill.
- Children who exhibit signs of illness at school will be sent home. **You will now be sent home with the Return to School form.** A parent or other approved adult *must* pick up your child as soon as you receive a call that your child is sick.
- All children returning to school after recovering from fever and/or flu like illness (see attached form with listed symptoms), the teacher along with the School Nurse will assess whether the child is recovered and well enough to remain in school. **A completed Return to School form must be submitted.**
- Forms will be available in each classroom as well as on the website.
- How to complete this new form:
  - a.) The initial date of illness and symptoms noticed *must* be recorded
  - b.) The last date and time of documented temp over 100F *must* be recorded
  - c.) The date and time of last dose of any medication with fever reducing medications *must* be recorded
  - d.) Note if the child was evaluated by a pediatrician and attach doctor's note

As you are all aware, Home Away From Home Academy is consistently on forefront of health and wellness issues. As we are entering into the "Influenza Pandemic Period" (November 1<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010), the Department of Education has recommended the utilization of this Return to School Note for Influenza Like Illness to assess the children returning to school after a flu-like illness to ensure that each child returning is as healthy as possible. The most important thing in conjunction with this new policy, which is vital in reducing the spread of illness, is open communication and utmost support from you, the parents. Adhering to our number one health policy is also key: **keeping sick children home until 24 hours symptom free and fever free without the use of fever reducing medications.**

**\*\*\*The CDC strongly recommends avoiding contact with others and staying home when ill, unless to seek medical care.\*\*\* Additionally, if any family member is diagnosed with the flu – children should remain home for at least four days to avoid the spread of illness.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and adherence to this policy.