Valentine’s Day!

As we think about celebrating holidays with children, it is easy to let our mind instantly jump to candies, sweets, and treats. Our goal at the State Street ELC is to teach children about Healthy Living and establishing healthy habits right from the start. If you are volunteering to provide a snack for Valentine’s Day, please consider the healthier options of “Red Items,” such as pink applesauce, watermelon, strawberry yogurt, etc. By providing these snacks on a special day, we are showing children that healthy food is also special and fun!

Help keep our ELC healthy during the season & please remember these handy tips:

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature of L0T A or higher</th>
<th>Vomiting</th>
<th>Diarrhea</th>
<th>Rash</th>
<th>Head Lice</th>
<th>Eye Infection</th>
<th>The Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within the past 24 hours.</td>
<td>Within the past 24 hours.</td>
<td>Body rash with itching or fever.</td>
<td>Itchy head, active head lice, redness, itching, and/or “crusty” drainage from eye.</td>
<td>Hospital stay and/or ER Visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fever</th>
<th>Fevers from rash</th>
<th>Icing, or</th>
<th>Licking, or</th>
<th>Treated with appropriate Ice treatment</th>
<th>Released by my doctor</th>
<th>Released by my medical provider to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>at home; at school</td>
<td>To return</td>
<td>To return from provider to.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ensure your child’s safety, please keep your child home if they exhibit any form of illness!

LOOKING FOR A HINT TO MAKE VALENTINES WITH YOUR CHILD?

Don’t worry about writing the name of each individual child in your child’s class on their Valentines. Instead, make it a meaningful activity for your child where they may practice writing/recognizing their own name. For younger children, try using printable (or blank) labels with your child’s name on them and have the child stick the label onto the card (great pincer grasp skill building!). That way, when your child delivers the cards, they will not have to know how to read the names. Children will simply “deliver” their special Valentine to each friend and everyone will know who it is from!

Baby, It’s Getting Cold Outside (But We Still Go Outside to Play)!

A gentle reminder to please send your children to school with proper winter gear: hats, mittens, coats, and when snow is on the ground- snow pants and boots. If you have extra cold weather items to donate to the Center, we’ll happily take them. We
will use these items to “lend” to the children that have forgotten/misplaced theirs - so that the rest of the class can get outside! Thank you!

The classrooms are using the Class Dojo app weekly, as a way to highlight some fun activities that are happening in the classroom.

Please note that the classrooms will be unable to use the messaging portion of the app, as they will not always have their iPad available. Please feel free to stop in the office if you have additional questions!

State Street ELC Best Practices and Policies

Please read over the following and do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

- Please note: **Please DO NOT park in handicap parking spots.**
- YMCA parking lot is **ONLY** to be used for YMCA participants who are using the facility. **Please do not park your car here if you are using public transportation, as cars may be towed.**
- Gentle reminder: Our ELC limits childcare for **no more than a 10hr day**, as it can be very challenging for young children to attend school for more than the 10-hour limit. Center staffing is also a consideration, so that we are able to maintain state mandated ratios.
- Please remind your child to use their walking feet in the hallway and to stay with whoever is picking them up or dropping them off for the day.

Get Important Updates from State Street ELC via the Remind Text Messaging App

Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students and parents. Subscribe by text, email or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private. ELC staff will never see your phone number, nor will you see ours.

To join and receive information about emergency due to inclement weather and other reminders, text the following message @bcgcg7 to the number 81010

OR

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [https://www.remind.com/join/bcgcg7](https://www.remind.com/join/bcgcg7)

Please feel free to reach out to Director, Mary Spargo, or Assistant Director, Ann Venuti, with any question or comments. We value your feedback!

Mary Spargo  
South Shore YMCA State Street ELC Director  
mspargo@ssymca.org  
857-403-4721

Ann Venuti  
South Shore YMCA State Street ELC Asst. Director  
avenuti@ssymca.org  
857-403-4749

We are excited that the Class Dojo app is up and running in classrooms. If you haven’t gotten your code yet, please see your child’s teacher.