

## **Three Reasons to Keep a Sick Child Home from School**

It's a typical school-year dilemma for parents – is their child sick enough to stay home? Not only will the child miss valuable school time, but often mom or dad needs to miss work, too.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), there are three key reasons you might keep your child home from school:

1. Fever over 100.4 degrees F
2. May be contagious or has a rash
3. Is not well enough to participate in class

If your child has been on antibiotics for at least two days, it's OK to send the child to school, even if a low fever remains.

Is it contagious?

Some symptoms of a contagious illness are:

Repeated diarrhea, vomiting or fever higher than 100.4 degrees F

Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye

Sore throat, especially if there is also a fever or swollen neck glands

Unusual fatigue, paleness, lack of appetite, confusion or irritability

When in doubt, call your pediatric or family doctor for guidance.

*From Growing Together, published by The Children's Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio*