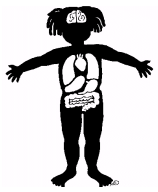
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS

Illness is common in children. Children in group settings can easily pass germs back and forth because they share toys and spend many hours together. As a child care provider, you need to take steps to decrease the spread of disease in your child care center so everyone stays healthy. It is important that you learn how disease is spread so that you can learn how to prevent it.

RESPIRATORY (NOSE AND MOUTH)

Hands and other surfaces soiled with nasal and throat discharges are responsible for much spread of disease. Sneezing and coughing by children who have germs allow these germs to spread to other children. Some of the illnesses that are passed in this way are:

Common cold	Chickenpox	Flu	Measles
Meningitis	Mumps	Strep throat	Whooping cough



FECAL-ORAL

Germs are present in the bowel movements (stools) of ill children or infected well children (carriers) and may be spread directly from soiled hands to another person's mouth. They may also be spread by objects, on surfaces, or in contaminated foods. The areas most often soiled with feces are hands, faucet handles, toilet flush handles, toys, table tops, and surfaces or areas where diapers are changed. Some of the illnesses spread in this way are:

Hepatitis A	Shigella	Salmonella

DIRECT CONTACT (SKIN/HAIR OR LESIONS)

Some conditions can be spread by direct contact with infected areas. Some of these conditions are:

Impetigo	Ringworm

Some conditions can be spread by contact with an infested body area. Some of these conditions are:

Head lice	Scabies