

Lehigh Valley Child Care, Inc.



Reaching New Heights in Early Education.

August 10, 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian –

I wanted to take a moment to address Lehigh Valley Child Care's decision not to have children engage in outdoor recreation during times of extreme heat. As I'm sure you understand, our first concern is for the health and physical well being of the children in our care. We have created a policy on outdoor recreation in order to prevent heat related injuries, such as dehydration, asthma attacks, heat exhaustion, muscle cramps and sunstroke.

It is important to remember that at a young age children are often unaware of excessive heat and continue to run and play, which can easily lead to over-exertion and dehydration. To children with health concerns, like asthma, heat and humidity are a dangerous combination.

We are just formalizing our policy on outdoor recreation in extreme heat, because the frequency of excessively hot days is increasing. We will make the decision to cancel planned outdoor activities by 9 AM each day, based on the official Excessive Heat Warnings issued by the National Weather Service. These warnings will be issued 24 hours in advance of a possible 105°F heat index for at least three hours for at least two consecutive days, or when there is a predicted heat index of 115°F. A heat index of 105°F would result from an air temperature of 92°F with 60% relative humidity.

As with all weather decisions, we will make the best decision possible with the information we have available at the time. We will also make every effort to reschedule cancelled activities or trips. On days when planned trips are cancelled, children may still be taken outdoors, at their center, for intervals of no more than 15 minutes and brought indoors more frequently to cool and hydrate.

Please understand that this policy was created in the best interest of your child(ren) to protect them and staff members from heat related injuries.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Williams
President / CEO