



# RASHES

Rashes may occur for many reasons and it is impossible to cover in this manual all the causes for a rash. In most cases, rashes that last for more than a day that are accompanied by fever and/or other symptoms of illness, or rashes that develop all over the body should be referred to a physician for diagnosis before a child returns to the childcare facility.

Sensitive rashes that are caused from plant sensitivity such as poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac often have unusually shaped blister-like sores. The fluid in these blisters is not contagious to others. People react to direct contact from the plant or from indirect contact from clothing, or other objects contaminated from plant contact. (A family pet can also indirectly pass this to people when its fur is contaminated). It is best to consult a physician for treatment.

Hives is a rash that may happen when a person is hypersensitive to such things as certain foods, drugs, and bee stings. It may also be due to emotional factors. The rash is usually itchy, raised, reddish welts on the skin. Hives that are accompanied by difficulty breathing, unusual anxiety and hives occurring all over the body needs to be seen by a physician immediately.

Another common rash experienced by children during the summer months is known as Swimmer's Itch. It is a form of dermatitis (i.e., inflammation of the skin) that is caused by larvae of certain worms when they attempt to penetrate the skin. This results in a mild allergic reaction. The worms that cause Swimmer's itch are commonly found in water after being excreted from birds, waterfowl and mammals. Generally, no treatment is required for the rash since it goes away in a few days and does not cause lasting effects. Swimmer's Itch is not spread from person-to-person.