



## WHAT IS DIARRHEA?

- At least 3 bowel movements within a 24-hour period.
- What may be “normal” for one child may be abnormal for another.
- Daycare/school staff may know the usual bowel movement habits of their children.
- Parents need to let staff know when dropping off their child(ren), if they have had 1 or 2 bouts of diarrhea before coming to daycare or school.

### Diapered children:

1. Frequency: More diaper changes than usual.
2. Appearance: **Watery, loose, unusual color or odor, or bloody.**
3. Behavior: Child showing signs of abdominal pain, discomfort or gas

### Potty-training children (+/- diapers, pull-ups, or underwear):

1. Frequency: More trips to the bathroom than usual and/or more accidents.
2. Appearance: **Watery, loose, unusual color or odor, or bloody.**
3. Behavior: Child showing signs of abdominal pain, discomfort or gas. Staff may need to ask children, who are using the restroom on their own, what they are experiencing.

### Potty-trained children:

1. Frequency: More trips to the bathroom than usual or having accidents.
2. Appearance: **Watery, loose, unusual color or odor, or bloody.**
3. Behavior: Child showing signs of abdominal pain, discomfort, or gas. Staff may need to ask children, who are using the restroom on their own, what they are experiencing.