



Head Lice Policy

Date adopted:

Date last reviewed:
January 2021

Reviewed by:
Board of Management.

Date of next review:
January 2023

Policy context:

This policy relates to:

National Quality Standards.	<p>Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety</p> <p>2.1 <i>Health</i> Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.</p> <p>2.1.1 <i>Wellbeing and comfort</i> Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.</p> <p>2.1.2 <i>Health practices and procedures</i> Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.</p> <p>2.2 <i>Safety</i> Each child is protected.</p> <p>2.2.1 <i>Supervision</i> At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.</p>
Legislation/Act.	Education and Care Services National Regulations 88 Infectious Diseases

Documents related to this policy

Related policies	Health and Safety Policy
Forms or other organisational documents	Accident/Illness/Injury/Behaviour Report
References	Staying Healthy in Childcare 5 th Edn. – 2012

Policy Review:

Policy review frequency: This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Organisations Review Policy.

Responsibility for review: The Board of Management.

Where appropriate staff will be part of the review process.

Documentation and communication: Policy documentation to be held in Policy and Procedure manuals. Where appropriate copies of new or reviewed policies will be given to staff, volunteers and families.

Purpose

To offer guidelines for the detection and management of head lice in children at the Centre.

Rationale

To ensure continuity of attendance.
To assist in community education.

Procedure

Discourage pillows and sharing of hats.

Encourage children and educators with long hair to tie it back.

At the Centre:

1. Children that are itching or complaining of scalp irritation will have their hair/scalp investigated at the Centre as well as all children within the group.
2. Detection of live eggs (nits) and/or lice at the centre will result in parents & primary caregivers being informed.
3. The educator who detects the head lice will complete an Accident/Illness/Injury/Behaviour Report.
4. Child will need to have hair treated and eggs/lice removed before they can return to school.
5. Centre will send home / have information re headlice treatment/ prevention available in home language - where appropriate.
6. To manage cross-infestation the child will be required to wear their preschool hat (this will enable the child to participate in the normal program until their collection. It is our "duty of care" to all children attending the Centre. When families are being telephoned, a brief overview of the above will be given.

Families are responsible for effective treatment.

- It is recommended that families conduct head checks on all family members.
- Apply conditioner to dry hair aiming to cover each hair from root to tip with a layer of conditioner.
- De-tangle the hair using an ordinary comb.
- Immediately comb the hair with a fine tooth nit comb.
- Wipe the conditioner off the fine tooth comb onto a paper tissue and look for lice and eggs.
- Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 5 times.
- Also examine the comb for lice and eggs.
- Treat infestation immediately.
- If lice are still moving after 20 minutes of treatment - stop using this product as bugs are most likely resistant to it. Treat all family members at the same time. It may be necessary to form an action plan with friends, close contacts, etc.
- After treatment remove all eggs (nits).
- Check hair regularly – "every 2 days until no lice are found for 10 consecutive days."
- Re-treatment may be required. Talk to your chemist about using a variety of treatments as lice can become resistant to certain products.

Families and Centre are to inform each other of head lice outbreaks immediately. Problematic (epidemic conditions may require consultation between families, Centre and health authorities)

Discussing more regular head checks; with families permission.

All children to be treated at the same time.

Child's hair is checked prior to entry to the Centre.