
Policy Statement

- We aim to provide a healthy hygienic environment that will promote the health of the children, staff and parents through proper care and attention. All people at the centre will follow preventative measures in head lice control. Staff will ensure they maintain and model appropriate hygiene practices.

Considerations

- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
- ✓ The Education and Care Services National Quality Standards 2011
- ✓ My Time Our Place
- ✓ NSW Health
- ✓ Staying Healthy in Childhood (5th edition)

Procedures

- Parents and Families are encouraged to check their child's hair for head lice on a regular basis.
- Parents and families should not allow their child to attend with untreated head lice, keep them at home.
- Staff are required to notify parents/carers as soon as head lice are identified.
- Parents should be encouraged to collect their child as soon as possible if head lice is identified. Children can return once effective treatment of head lice has commenced.
- Staff should not inspect hair for head lice, if a child is scratching more than normal or staff have suspicions that a child has head lice then, staff should tell the parents that you suspect their child may have head lice, and why you suspect it. Encourage the family to check the child's hair and treat if necessary.
- Staff shall model sound personal hygiene practices and encourage their use by children.
- Parents will be informed discreetly if their child is found with head lice.
- Staff will continually encourage children not to share combs or hairbrushes and not to put their heads together or share hats.
- Parents are encouraged to wash any items retrieved from the lost property basket prior to re-use.
- Children with long hair should tie it up to prevent the spread of head lice.
- Staff are encouraged to tie long hair back during work times to prevent head lice.
- Parents should follow the instructions of an approved head lice treatment program to ensure their child is not re-infested with headlice.
- If there is a confirmed case of Head Lice, Coordinators should ensure that notices are placed up and available for families encouraging them to check and treat their child's hair, as if there is one case there are likely to be more.
- Information is available on the NSW Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice

Checklist for Staff

- Report to the shift supervisor any child who is constantly scratching their head.
- Shift supervisor should speak to the parent or guardian so the child's head can be treated if needed.
- Get your hair treated if you are constantly scratching your head or if you think you have head lice.

_____ end of policy _____

Policy is only endorsed if initialled by 2 members of the management committee

Endorsed by the Management Committee on the 01st March 2017

Head Lice Policy is to be reviewed by the 01st March 2022