

The Kinder Garden



Head Lice Policy

Aim

Pediculus humanus capitis, commonly known as head lice, can cause concern and frustration for parents, educators, staff and children. This policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of The Kinder Garden to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
National Quality Standards 2011

Who is affected by this policy?

Child
Educators
Family
Management

Implementation

Management & Educators/Staff will:

- Ensure that any educators/staff who undertake 'head lice inspections' will adhere to this policy and latest NSW Government-Health Department guidelines.
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent.
- Ask parents to sign a consent form for inspection of their child's hair if they are seen to have head lice, on enrolment.
- Respect the wishes of parents/families that elect not to participate in a childcare head lice check.
- To help reduce the stigma, and maintain confidentiality, when conducting head lice inspections, a letter should be given to all the children involved.
- Advise Parents/Guardians if a child has head lice.
- Provide up to date information on Head Lice from a recognised authority.
- Keep families informed if there is someone at the service with Head Lice.

If a child is seen to have Head Lice, the following will occur:

- The Nominated Supervisor will be notified,
- If one child in the group has head lice, it is likely that several others will also have them.
- Reduce head-to-head contact between children when the education and care service is aware that someone has head lice.
- The child will not be made to feel isolated at any time.

If there is an outbreak of Head Lice at The Kinder Garden, we ask parents/guardians:

- To check children's hair for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- That your child does not attend the service with untreated head lice. The child may return to the service as soon as effective treatment has started.
- To regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- To notify the Service if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced
- That children with long hair will attend the Service with hair tied back.
- To use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
- To notify the parents/guardians of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.
- To maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- To act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the Service and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

In cases of severe outbreaks children may be individually checked as they arrive at the Service each day, with the approval of the parents.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
National Quality Standards 2011
Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition 2012

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: February 2018

Date for next review: February 2019