



Head Lice Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Standard 2.1 Each child's health is promoted.

Standard 2.2 Healthy eating and physical activity are embedded in the program for children.

Standard 2.3 Each child is protected.

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some families, Educators and children. This policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the service community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst families have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our service community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Responsibilities of Families

- Children's hair will be checked on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- Children do not attend the service with untreated head lice. Children with live lice or eggs will be sent home.
- All household members will regularly check and treat if necessary. *(Families will notify the Service if their child is found to have live lice so the Service can monitor the number of cases and act responsibly if a high number of cases are reported.)*
- Children with long hair will attend the service with their hair tied back
- Families will only use safe and recommended practices to treat head lice
- Families will maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- To contact and inform the Service as soon as lice are detected and treatment has started so the Service can monitor cases and act responsibly.

Responsibilities of the Service

To support families and the broader community of the Service, and to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the service will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to families and Educators at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required
- Alert all families when a case of head lice has been detected (Maintaining confidentiality) through a notice or sign on each entrance door to children's rooms.
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures

- Exclude a child from the service if live head lice and or eggs are detected and re-commence care once appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Accept the advice of families that appropriate treatment has commenced
- Record confidentially all cases so an outbreak can be avoided
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help them understand the issue and how to prevent further outbreaks
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with families of the service especially around issues of head lice and always treat all cases with strict confidentiality
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice

This policy was made with consideration to Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition.

Date that the policy was revised: April 2016

Signature of Director: _____

Nurture and Nature Private Preschool