

2.13 Headlice

Background

In childcare Services, children have close contact with each other and this provides the opportunity for head lice to be transferred from head to head. Head Lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children.

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

Policy statement

This Policy outlines the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the Service and parents to assist with a consistent and coordinated approach to treating and controlling head lice.

Strategies and practices

- At enrolment, parents are provided with information about the Service's Head Lice Policy, and with up-to-date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice. QA 2.1.3
- Information and brochures are available at the Service for parents and staff QA 2.1.3
- Children do not share hats or bedding at the Service. QA 2.1.3
- Parents of children with long hair are asked to tie the hair back before coming to the Service. QA 2.3.2
- Parents are asked to check children's hair regularly for head lice. Parents are expected to ensure that their child does not attend the Service with untreated head lice. Parents are asked to notify the childcare Service if their child is found to have live lice and when appropriate treatment was commenced. QA 2.1.4
- Parents of a child found to have head lice while at the Service are contacted immediately to come and collect their child. The child can only be accepted back into the Service after appropriate treatment has started and the child no longer has live head lice. QA 2.1.4
- The Service provides all parents with a Head Lice Notification, via notification posters in the foyer, when an outbreak of head lice has occurred in the Service. Individual children/families are not identified. All parents are provided with factual information, and are asked to check their own child's head daily once head lice have been detected in the Service. QA 2.1.4
- After a case of head lice has been detected in the Service, all items such as hats, bedding and dress-up clothes which may have been used by the child are washed in hot soapy water and dried. QA 2.1.3

Responsibilities of parents

- To tie back their child's long hair.
- To check children's hair regularly for head lice and advise the Service if head lice are detected.

- To collect their child in the event of head lice being detected in the child’s hair, and to treat the hair accordingly.

Links to other policies

- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Managing Infectious Diseases Policy

Sources, further reading and useful websites

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011.
- Victorian Government Health Information. *Model Headlice Policy*. <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/childcare.htm> accessed 23 November 2013
- Queensland Health. *Head Lice in Primary Schools Kits: Guidelines for the school management of head lice*. <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/wellbeing-guidelines/headlice.html> accessed 23 November 2013
- Queensland Health. (2013). *Head Lice: A Queensland Health Fact Sheet*. http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/Parasites/headLice_fs.pdf accessed 23 November 2013

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