

Head Lice

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

- 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 or eggs while at the Service are contacted immediately to come and collect their child. The child can only be accepted back into the Service the day after appropriate treatment has started and the child no longer has live head lice or eggs. QA 2.1.4
- The Service provides all parents with a Head Lice Notification 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 hung out to dry in the sun. 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

Head Lice

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

Regs	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record.
	88	Infectious diseases

QA	2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported
	2.1.3	Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
	2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines
	2.3.1	Children are adequately supervised at all times
	2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011.

Further reading and useful websites

- Queensland Health. *Public Factsheet: Head Lice*. <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/165/351/Head-Lice> accessed 5 February 2016
- Community Child Care Co-operative. *Help! I don't know what to do about head lice: A guide to dealing with head lice within a childcare service*. <http://cccnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/members-help-lice.pdf> accessed 5 February 2016

Policy review

Bella Grace Early Learning Centre encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Date reviewed: July 2017

Next review Date: July 2018