

Head Lice Policy

BELLA GRACE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

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.
- In the event that educators observe the child demonstrating signs of discomfort with their hair, educators will discreetly examine a child's hair to establish if head lice is the cause.
- 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. Any eggs are also to be removed.
- The Service provides parents with information when an outbreak of head lice has occurred in the Service. Individual children/families are not identified. Families 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.
- 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 to be washed in hot soapy water and hung out to dry in the sun.

Head Lice Policy

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 wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
	2.2.2	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented

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 23 December 2017

Policy review

The Service 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.

REVIEW DETAILS:

Review Date	Details of Changes
January 2018	Updated to changed NQF requirements 1 Feb 2018
April 2018	Educators to discreetly check child's hair when presently with signs of discomfort – Added