

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

- The *Head Lice Policy* is available to families upon enrolment and staff upon induction.
- Parents will be kept up to date with accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice.
- Educators are permitted to discreetly examine a child's hair should they observe the child demonstrating signs of discomfort. The dignity and rights of the child will be maintained at all times.
- Educators will ensure that children do not share hats or bedding at the Service.
- 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, and are asked to check their own child's hair daily, once head lice have been detected in the Service.
- Parents of a child found to have head lice while at the Service will be contacted immediately to collect their child. The child can only reattend the Service the day after appropriate treatment has commenced and the child no longer has live head lice.
- The Service will notify all families when an outbreak of head lice has occurred at the Service, without individuals being identified.
- 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 accordingly.

References

- *Education and Care Services National Law*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations*
- *Guide to the National Quality Framework*
- *Care for Kids, Childcare and Head Lice (2016)*
<https://www.careforkids.com.au/child-care-articles/article/81/child-care-and-head-lice>
- Dr Brenda Abbey (Childcare by Design)

Policy Review

The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the 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, where necessary, as part of the review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.