



Head Lice Policy

Introduction:

It is recognised by the staff and committee of Toukley Preschool that head lice is a common occurrence in preschool and school aged children. Head lice spread very easily and anyone can catch head lice. At Toukley Preschool we are aware that you can't prevent head lice, however early detection can make treatment more successful and stop the spread of the lice.

Aim:

- * At Toukley Preschool we aim to assist with early identification, treatment and control of head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner so as to provide an environment that will control and prevent the spread of head lice within our centre.
- * Provide information and support for families.

Head Lice

Pediculosis Capitis or head lice are insects that live in hair and suck blood from the scalp, sometimes causing itching of the scalp. Female head lice lay their eggs and glue them to the base of hair shafts. The eggs are pale cream to yellowish brown in colour and hatch after 7–10 days. The immature lice grow into adults over 6–10 days (brown or grey in colour) and start biting the scalp to feed on blood. Adult lice mate, the females lay more eggs, and the cycle continues.

People get head lice from direct head to head contact with another person who has head lice. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

Implementation:

Responsibilities of Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and Educators

- * Parents are informed either on enrolment or through Storypark of our policy that children with head lice or nits (eggs) are unable to be in attendance at the centre until the lice are treated with a specialised head lice treatment and ALL eggs are removed (both dead and alive).
- * All children and staff attending Toukley Preschool will be checked for head lice/nits if they show any visual indication of having head lice. Consideration will be given to each individual's privacy. Parents/guardians not wishing to have their child's hair checked for head lice will need to notify the Nominated Supervisor of this decision in writing. If head lice/eggs are subsequently suspected, the non-consenting parent/guardian will be contacted to attend the centre and check their own child's hair with the Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person.
- * If signs of head lice are evident, either through observation of the child's excessive scratching or through visual observation of a child with parental consent, the staff member will inform the Responsible Person. Staff will then discreetly check the child's hair for lice or eggs.
- * If evidence of head lice or eggs are found, staff will confidentially notify the parent/caregiver of that child and request that they be collected from school and treated with appropriate head lice treatment before returning to the centre.

* Children found with head lice/eggs and whose parents have been notified will remain with their teacher and class group participating in appropriate activities, which will limit cross-infection, until parent/authorised carer has arrived to collect their child.

* Staff will inform parents/carers of the necessary treatment required before their child can return to the centre and supply a copy of this Head Lice Policy if requested.

* Staff will encourage parents to tie back children's hair when attending Preschool.

* If there is an outbreak of head lice in our centre a notice will be written and displayed near the sign-in/out sheets in each room so that all families can be extra diligent in checking their children's hair.

* The preschool will endeavour to inform parents of any new updated information on the issue of head lice through Storypark.

Responsibilities of Families:

* It is recommended that parents check all their children's hair daily/weekly throughout their preschool and school life - in this way we will have a chance at controlling head lice.

* Ensure your child does not attend the Service with untreated head lice. If you find any live lice or eggs, begin treatment immediately and notify the Service if your child is affected so the Service can monitor the number of cases and act responsibly if a high number of cases are reported.

* Upon returning to the preschool the parent/carer is required to speak with the Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person on the day to ensure all requirements have been met before the child can re-attend the centre.

That is:- The child has been treated with an appropriate head lice shampoo/lotion

All eggs have been removed – both dead and alive

The parent/carer agrees to re-treat hair in 5-7 days from initial treatment.

* It is also recommended that a maintenance program for the control of head lice be continued for at least 2 weeks after infestation. This consists of both head lice treatment products and the application of hair conditioner (white) applied to dry hair, leave it on for 10 minutes, combed through the hair with a lice comb starting at the scalp and working through the hair in sections. After each stroke wipe the conditioner off the comb onto paper towel and look for lice/eggs. Rinse the hair after the whole head has been combed. Repeat this process every 2/3 days for at least 2 weeks.

* Children with long hair are requested to have their hair tied back.

Treatment:

* Conditioner and Combing Technique

1. Untangle dry hair with an ordinary comb.

2. Apply hair conditioner to dry hair (white conditioner makes it easier to see the eggs). Use enough conditioner to cover the whole scalp and all the hair from roots to tips.

3. Use an ordinary comb to evenly distribute the conditioner, and divide the hair into four or more sections using hair clips.

4. Starting with a section at the back of the head, place the teeth of a head lice comb flat against the scalp. Comb the hair from the roots through to the tips.

5. Wipe the comb clean on a tissue after each stroke and check for head lice or eggs on the tissue.

6. Comb each section twice until you have combed the whole head. If the comb becomes clogged, use an old toothbrush, dental floss or a safety pin to remove the head lice or eggs.

* Chemical treatments are also available for head lice for children ages more than six months — your pharmacist can help you choose a product.

* No single chemical treatment will work for everyone and lice can develop resistance to the chemicals.

Evaluation

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

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given access, opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Legislative Requirements:

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Links to National Quality Standard:

QA 2 – Children's health and Safety

Sources:

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Australian Government –National Health and Medical Research Council; Staying Healthy In Childcare 5th Edition.

Department of Education - <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) - [http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-](http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf)

[Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf](http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf) **Education and Care Services National Regulations (Children (Education and Care Services))**

National Law (NSW) <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

National Quality Framework (NQF) - <http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

United Nations Convention on the rights of the child - <https://www.unicef.org.au/>

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