



Bangalow Community Children's Centre
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Head Lice Policy

Date: June 2012
Review Date: June 2013

Legislation:	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Education and Care Services National Law 2011
Reference:	National Quality Framework Resource Kit 2011 Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infectious diseases in child care - Fourth Edition www.det.nsw.edu.au www.health.act.gov.au

Introduction

Outbreaks of head lice are a common problem in educational care settings and can be difficult to contain. The Service is not always the source of outbreaks. Outbreaks can come through siblings and social and sporting activities. Families have responsibility for assisting in the prevention and management of outbreaks of head lice through regular checks of the children's hair and commencing immediate treatment when head lice are detected.

Routine mass head checks are no longer considered necessary.

Goals

- To help minimise the acquisition and spread of head lice in the Centre.

Practices

It is the expectation of families attending this Service that:

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- That your child does not attend the Service with untreated head lice (in accordance with health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- Parents/carers notify the Centre if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)
- It is recommended that children with long hair will attend the Centre with hair tied back
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the Service and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

To support parents/carers to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the Service will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff throughout the year as required
- Include information about head lice management in Service Handbook given to families when enrolling

Practices (cont)

- Include new information and updates in newsletters as it arises
- Provide practical advice, maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Be alert to possible outbreak of head lice
- Advise family if child is found to have head lice, providing fact sheet on treatment for
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced
- Inform families of Service (Head Lice Note to Families) when outbreak occurs at the Service
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the Service and broader community especially around issues of head lice
- Conditioner may be applied by staff if permission received from families
- Print information for non English reading families in home language where required
www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents

National Regulations

88 Infectious diseases

NQF

2.1 Each child's health needs are supported

Related Documents

Head Lice information sheet

Head Lice note to families

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed on the date advised or earlier if the need arises.

Family and staff feedback will be considered in the review process. Changes in legislation, regulations, NQF and standards will be considered.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to families and staff.

