

## HEAD LICE CONTROL POLICY

General screenings of all students, Pre-K through 6th will be conducted each year. The parents/guardians of infested children should be notified and the students found to be infested during screening should be sent home with information on treatment and nit removal.

If a child is found to have lice or nits, the parents will be contacted at work or home and asked to meet with a representative of the facility when he/she picks up the child. The timing of this meeting should depend on circumstances such as severity of infestation, ability of parents to leave work, and the emotional state of the child. The parent/guardian and the child will be sent home from school that day with educational materials detailing proper treatment and methods of nit removal. The child is expected to return to school the following day after shampoo treatment and nit removal has been accomplished.

On the day that the child returns to school following head lice treatment, the parent/guardian must present the child at the school for a recheck and remain present until the child has been cleared to reenter. The trained personnel may screen children following treatment for reentry into the school. If significant improvement has occurred, no live lice and essentially no nits are found the staff member may allow the child back into the facility. The parent must continue daily nit combing and the trained school staff would perform a recheck in 7-10 days to ensure the child has remained free of nits and lice. However, if infestation is still a problem or significant nits remain, the staff member should work with the parent, demonstrate nit removal, emphasize the importance of combing, and send the child home with the parent/guardian for the day with instruction on nit removal. The child is expected to return to school the following day with the nit removal accomplished.

A notice shall be sent home by the building principal to the parents of all classmates when a case of head lice has been identified in the classroom. The notice should detail that a case of head lice has been identified in the classroom and recommend that the parent screen their child.

In cases of: 1) chronic infestation, 2) repeated infestation (reinfestation of the same child two times within 6 months), 3) inability of the family to rid the child of infestation, 4) possible impetigo (secondary bacterial infection of sores and scratches on the child's head), the parent may be referred to the school nurse, health department, or the student's physician for treatment. In such cases, the child may be excluded from attending school until the child is no longer infested. Depending on the circumstances, the Local Department of Human Services personnel may be contacted to assist the family.

In cases of exclusion, a note from a representative of the public health department or a medical provider, which declares the child to be lice and nit free, is necessary to allow reentry into the facility.

Teachers are often first to identify a potential case of head lice in the classroom. Teachers shall work together with the designated personnel of the building, to discreetly alert parents that their child has signs of head lice infestation and to give the parent educational material regarding treatment and nit removal, ensuring confidentiality if possible. Working together, plan head lice screenings at the end of the day or before the lunch break so that those identified as infested can be inconspicuously notified and sent home. \*While awaiting parental arrival, it is not necessary to completely isolate the child from the rest of the children. Lice can not jump or fly, so solitary activities (i.e. coloring, writing, or reading at the desk) would not put the rest of the class at risk of acquiring head lice. Remember, that all socioeconomic groups may be affected and infestation is not a sign of poor hygiene. Every effort should be made to prevent the child from suffering emotionally.

TEACHERS CAN HELP PREVENT HEAD LICE TRANSMISSION IN THEIR CLASSROOMS BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

- Ensure that coats are hung separately with space between so that they do not touch.
- Make sure hats, gloves, scarves, etc., are tucked into coat sleeves.
- Each child should have his or her own storage place for mats, towels or other items brought from home.
- Carpeted floors should be vacuumed daily. Tile and linoleum floors should be swept daily.
- "Dress-up comers" with shared items can facilitate the spread of lice and should be limited, especially during periods when there are known cases of head lice infestation in the class.
- Observe children carefully for symptoms of head lice infestation. Early detection of cases will limit spread.
- Children should be taught basic information regarding head lice. The importance of each child using only his or her own hair care items and the importance of not sharing other children's, hats, combs etc
- Distribute educational materials as needed to parents. \*Following a head lice screening in our classroom in which one or more children are found to have head lice, each child might be sent home with a sealed envelope of appropriate information to the parents regarding the status of their child. This might help to maintain anonymity for the infested child(ren).