

Head Lice

Policy

Current guidance provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Center Licensing is used to handle cases of head lice.

Procedure

- If a child has head lice, the parent/guardian will be contacted immediately. Parent/guardian must pick up child as soon as possible. If an adult has head lice, they should leave the site immediately. Direct head-to-head contact or sharing items that touch the head should be avoided as the child is awaiting pick-up.
- The parent of an affected child must be notified once lice is discovered and pick up their child as soon as possible.
- Parents are informed that a treatment recommended by a health provider must be completed and child must be nit and lice free before a person with head lice can return to the classroom.
- Children and staff who have been in close contact in the past 48 hours with a person who has head lice should be examined, preferably by the Head Start Health Manager, Head Start Health Educator or health staff at their building, if available.
- A health alert is sent home to all parents when there is a diagnosed head lice case. This alert should go out to all Head Start classrooms within the building. A handout is available for staff to send to parents to help identify and effectively treat lice.
- Confidentiality is maintained at all times.
- The Head Start Health Manager and Head Start Health Educator can work with individual families, especially those with chronic cases of lice, as needed.
- Staff follow current national health recommendations to disinfect and clean any items to avoid re-infestation.

At present time, this includes:

- ✓ Machine-wash dress-up clothes, hats, blankets, and other items that can be laundered. Use hot water (130° F) and a high (hot) drying cycle.
- ✓ Items that cannot be laundered are placed in a sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks.
- ✓ Vacuum the floor and furniture, especially where the infected person sat or lay. Be sure to empty, clean and sanitize vacuum after use. Dispose of vacuum contents in a sealed bag in an outside garbage can.
- ✓ No pesticides or fumigants are used, due to their toxicity.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard [45 CFR Section 1304.22](#) and Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Center Licensing.

Approved by Health Advisory Committee 1-18-05.

Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005.

Revision approved by Policy Council on 8-10-2016.

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