



Policy 2.9

Head Lice

The Two Wells Community Children's Centre is dedicated to providing a healthy environment for all children in our care. On the detection of head lice (pediculosis capitis) we will ensure that all is done to combat spread of infestation while maintaining the dignity of all the children/families involved.

Upon detection of head lice the parents of the children concerned will be contacted, and a note will be displayed on the door informing parents that a case has been reported and treatment methods displayed.

The child will need to be removed from care until they have been treated with a head lice specific treatment. (Available from chemists and we also stock an organic shampoo and preventative Melaleuca oil spray available for you to purchase)

For the treatment to be effective please follow all directions on the packaging, and consider the following;

- Check every member of the family. Look for tiny white eggs (nits) on hair shafts, near the scalp, especially at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.
- Head lice are small yellow/white insects without wings.
- If detected, use an effective head lice treatment. Always treat again 7-20 days after the first treatment to kill any eggs that may have survived and hatched.
- Use a fine tooth comb to remove eggs.
- Wash clothes, bed linen, towels in HOT water and detergent. Soak combs, brushes etc, in hot water for at least 10 minutes.
- Vacuum carpets, pillows, mattresses, furniture and the child's car seat.

To prevent head lice:

- Avoid direct head to head contact with people
- Don't share brushes, combs, ribbons, hats, helmets, hair ties etc.
- Discourage children from playing with each other's hair
- Keep long hair tied back or plaited
- Hair should be checked weekly.

The children may return to the centre the next day after the treatment has been fully completed.

Upon return to the centre the child will be checked by qualified staff to ensure that there are no live lice or live eggs remaining in the child's hair.

The centre understands that dead eggs and empty cases may remain on the hair stem, they are dead eggs if easily removed with gentle pulling.



All children who are in care and staff working on the day will be checked to ensure no one has been infested.

Only qualified staff will check the children's hair for lice and this will be done in a discrete way in a non-traffic area, once permission for this has been obtained.

Information and pamphlets regarding treatment and head lice in general is available from the Director/ Assistant Director of the centre.

Governing Council Member's Signature: _____

Director's Signature: _____

Two Wells Community Children's Centre's Common Seal

Date Reviewed: November 2015

Next Review Due: November 2017

Sources: Women's and Children's Hospital, 2007
Child and Youth Health
NADS