

Bishop Indian Head Start Head Lice

Policy

This policy is a Communicable Disease Prevention concerning children with live lice. Children will be sent home and may only return to the classroom when they are live lice free. However, if a child has more than one week of absences due to head lice, the family and Health/Disabilities Manager and Health Specialist will be contacted so that an individualized plan can be developed with the family and the classroom staff that will prevent the spread to other children while also enabling the child to attend school.

Procedure

1. The Health/Disabilities Manager and Teachers will create a time and specific routine for performing regular head lice checks on children. Ideally all children should be checked daily during morning health check to ensure that lice are not spread to other children/staff in the classroom. However, children should never be singled out for head lice checks, as this could be upsetting and affect the child's self esteem.
2. Regular head lice screenings will take place monthly with all children enrolled in the BIHS Program. Parents will be informed prior to their child receiving a head lice screening. Parents who refuse to have their child screened for lice will need to have their refusal documented. It will then be the responsibility of the parent to check their child's hair and provide feedback to Head Start staff about the outcome of their child's hair check.
3. Children who have been sent home for live head lice will be rechecked prior to returning to their classrooms. In this case, if the child has live lice they can be sent home with their parent(s) at that time.
4. If the child continues to have head lice, a home visit that will be made to educate the family further about head lice transmission and home cleaning care.
5. If a child comes to school with live lice in their scalp, the parent(s) or one of the persons on the emergency consent form will be called to come and take the child home as soon as possible. As with any other communicable disease, the child will need to be separated from the other children in a way that is not damaging to the child's self esteem but will also prevent the spread of lice to others (sick mat, cot or as space allows).
6. If the child has been sent home for the day, the parent will need to self transport the child to school and wait for their child's head to be checked prior to classroom admittance.
7. If there are only a small amount of nits (10 or less) in the child's hair and no live lice after the family has brought their child back the next day, staff can choose to pull the nits out and kill them rather than having the child be sent home. It is important that when we send the child home only with nits that we ask the family to remove and kill the nits only, not repeat the treatment. If live lice are found, all members of the family should be treated (except children 2 years and under).
8. When a child is sent home for lice, their family should receive the Get Rid of Lice Checklist from the Health/Disabilities Manager. If they have any questions about lice control that cannot be answered, the family should be referred to the Health Specialist and/or their medical provider.
9. All classroom linens including pillows, stuffed animals, clothing and furniture must be washable and must be laundered following each head lice report. Coats and hats should never be placed in a pile together. They must be hung up individually to prevent spread from these items of clothing.
10. The Health/Disabilities Manager will work with the Health Specialist to ensure that parents receive the most current and safest information regarding the treatment and elimination of head lice.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.22.

It was approved by Policy Council _____

Revised August, 17, 2016