

POLICY NO.34 Head Lice POLICY

REV: 05 REV. DATE: 16.08.2021

Scamps & Scholars wishes to outline roles and responsibilities for treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Head lice are common in all situations where children gather. Head lice infection is a community problem not just a childcare one. However, the Childcare centre will support families in their efforts to eradicate the problem.

Rationale

- Head lice spread very easily and can cause a lot of trouble and upset for children and families.
- It is a problem that can be dealt with efficiently by taking direct and appropriate action.
- Early identification and treatment of head lice will minimize their spread.

Parents

- You must inform the staff in the room if you are sure or suspect that your child has head lice.
- It is generally recommended that children's hair is checked weekly for head lice.
- If you discover your child has head lice, it is recommended that it is treated immediately and that you notify the staff at this centre.
- Parents will be asked to treat their child at home until the infection has been adequately treated with a head lice lotion and combed with a lice comb. Please understand the extent of what is required with such treatment which usually continues for about a week.
- Should the problem persist, **parents will be asked to refrain from bringing their child to the centre** until the head lice are completely cleared. This is to avoid cross contamination and an expansion of the problem.
- Long hair will have to be tied back to ensure the least amount of contact between children.
- Best practise would indicate that parents should undertake 3 weeks of combing after the head lice have been treated.

Childcare Centre

- Childcare staff will treat any report of head lice sensitively and with a sympathetic attitude.
- Staff will inform the parent if they notice head lice or eggs on their child’s head. This direct communication is to ensure that the parents are aware of the head lice and to ensure that immediate treatment of the head lice can take place.
- Verbal communication, medical sign notification or a letter will be given to all other parents of all children in the room notifying them of an incident of head lice in the room. This is to ensure that all parents check their own children for head lice and again if concerns are present, that immediate treatment can take place.
- Information sheets will be available in the room and on request, advising parents what to look out for and how to deal with it.
- Childcare staff will check children’s hair if they feel head lice may be present. Staff will endeavour to deal with any outbreak of head lice with the utmost discretion and confidentiality.

Please don’t take our direct communication on this matter as an offence. We are simply trying to eradicate the problem for all the children at the centre as quickly as possible.

It is not our wish to add to the stress that may be involved in a case of head lice and as such we are asking the parents / guardians to work closely with us to control such a situation as quickly as possible.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

(On behalf of the Board of Directors)