Salisbury Park Childhood Services Centre

Head Lice Policy

Head Lice are an unfortunate part of kindy and school environments. Parents will be notified when a confirmed case has been identified at the centre. All families are encouraged to check their child’s hair when notified of an ‘outbreak’ to help break the cycle of lice. Due to the highly infectious nature of head lice, children with a suspected case will be sent home for treatment.

Head lice may be suspected when the following are observed:
- Continued, persistent scratching of the head, particularly around the nape of the neck and/or above the ears.
- Lice are evident in the hair.
- Eggs (nits) are evident in the hair.

Staff will make observations of children’s hair during normal centre activities, no child will be excluded for a ‘hair check’.

Staff will not touch children’s hair, and observations will be made from a distance being unobtrusive and sensitive to the child’s feelings.

When a suspected case of Head Lice is detected, staff will contact parents/carers or emergency contacts to collect the child from the centre as soon as possible.

Children may return to the centre once a recommended treatment has been applied, and hair has been combed with a ‘fine tooth lice comb’ to remove eggs.

Policy review date FEB 2010

Governing Council Endorsed