

Big Sandy Area C.A.P., Inc. – HEAD START
Program Policies and Procedures

Lice Control

POLICY:

To prevent the spread of pediculosis (head lice), children found to have live lice or nits will be sent home and may only return to the classroom when they have received treatment and are lice free.

This policy relates to [Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1302.47](#)

PROCEDURE:

1. Parents will be informed during orientation that head lice screening will be conducted throughout the school year.
2. Classroom staff will create a time and specific routine for performing regular head checks on children.
3. All children will be checked regularly. Children will be treated with tact and sensitivity. If a child is found to have lice or nits, the staff shall be discreet and not alert the other children to this fact.
4. If a child is found to have live lice or nits, the parent(s) or an emergency contact person 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 does not damage the child's self-esteem but will also prevent the spread of lice to others. Delegate programs will follow their local Board of Education policy dealing with lice.
5. Parents will be given information on the most current and safest treatment of head lice.
6. Head Start does not require the family to use pesticide shampoo before returning the child to the classroom; however we do require that the child not have lice and/or nits present in the hair/scalp. They will need a statement from a physician, health department, nurse, or appointed staff person that the child is lice and nit free.

7. If a child returns to school more than once with lice or nits still present, a meeting will be arranged to problem solve the issue with the family.
8. Staff will stress the importance of following the recommended guidelines for treatment of lice. Any parent concerns or requests will be addressed and the staff will share the potential consequences for continued, untreated cases of lice (*i.e. child missing school and activities with classmates, potential charges of neglect, etc.*). Discussion with parents will be documented under the Family Case Notes tab of COPA.
9. Staff will limit their discussion of head lice to the employees within the classroom and the health services staff unless it becomes necessary to contact other direct services or management staff concerning the situation. An exception is when the classroom is located within a public school and school personnel provide direct services to the child and family, then the school personnel will be notified. Each delegate program will follow their local LEA recommendations concerning lice control. Model City will follow state licensing recommendations.

Approved by the Policy Council: September 2018