

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 been treated and are lice and nit free.

. This policy relates to Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1304.22

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, preferably in the morning prior to circle time or when children begin mingling together.
3. All children will be checked regularly. It is important that we treat children, especially those suspected of having head lice, both tactfully and sensitively in order to avoid loss of the children's self-esteem and not make them feel guilty or ashamed.
4. If a child is found to have live lice or nits in their scalp/ hair, 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 present in the hair/scalp. The child 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.

Staff will stress the importance of following the recommended guidelines for treatment of lice. Any parent concerns or requested assistance will be addressed and the potential consequences.

8. A communicable disease report will be sent to the Grantee or Delegate Health Services Manager/Cordinator on each new case of head lice.
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 provides 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 October, 2007