



ASPENDALE NORTH KINDERGARTEN INC.
13 Connewarra Avenue, Aspendale 3195
Phone/Fax: 9580 7976

HEAD LICE POLICY

National Quality Standard – Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

1. VALUES

This policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of Aspendale North Kindergarten to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our childcare community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families manage head lice effectively.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Aspendale North Kindergarten.

Legislation and Standards

- Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (updated June 2013) 5th Edition <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf>
- Department of Health 'Head Lice Management Guidelines' (<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/Head%20lice%20management%20guidelines>)

Procedure:

Aspendale North Kindergarten and its educators/staff will:

- ensure that any educators/staff who undertake 'head lice inspections' will adhere to this policy and latest VIC Government-Health Department guidelines;
- only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent;

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Current version: 2019.

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- ask parents to sign a consent form for inspection of their child's hair if they are seen to have head lice, on enrolment;
- respect the wishes of parents/families that elect not to participate in a childcare head lice check.
- to help reduce the stigma, and maintain confidentiality, when conducting head lice inspections, a letter should be given to all the children involved;
- advise Parents/Guardians if a child has head lice;
- provide up to date information on head lice from a recognised authority ; and
- keep families informed if there is someone at the service with head lice.

If a child is seen to have Head Lice, the following will occur:

- The Nominated Supervisor will be notified.
- The parent/guardian/authorised nominee will be contacted and asked to collect the child.
- The child's hair will be covered with their hat to ensure that the lice do not spread.
- The child will not be made to feel isolated at any time.

If there is an outbreak of Head Lice at **Aspendale North Kindergarten** we ask parents/guardians:

- To check children's hair for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- That your child does not attend the service with untreated head lice.
- To regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- To notify the service if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- That children with long hair will attend the Service with hair tied back.
- To use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
- To notify the parents/guardians of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.
- To treat again for head lice 7 days after initial treatment.
- To maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- To act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the service and broader community especially around issues of head lice.
- Develop a generic/blanket consent form which parents sign at commencement of childcare year.

In cases of severe outbreaks children may be individually checked as they arrive at the Service each day, with the approval of the parents as live lice will mean children cannot attend the kinder that day.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

EVALUATION

To assess whether this policy has achieved the purpose set out under the policy statement, the committee will:

- take into consideration feedback regarding the policy from staff, parents/guardians and Committee Management; and
- assess whether the kindergarten has been able to manage the treatment and controlling of head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Aspendale North Kindergarten in 2013 and reviewed in August 2019.

Current version: 2019.