



Green Planet Head Lice Policy

In a group setting there is the possibility of head lice. There is a misconception that “dirty” children get head lice. This is NOT true; in fact, lice happen to like clean hair, therefore, any child can get it. The Health Board does not recognize head lice as a health issue as they do not carry transmittable diseases. That being said, head lice are a nuisance and it takes a lot of work to get rid of them. In the past, special shampoos would take care of the problem. However, nowadays the lice have become more resilient. The shampoo does kill the live lice but not the nits. (Nits are the greyish, white eggs that attach to the base of the hair) To get rid of lice, a three step approach is recommended:

- 1) Wash your child’s hair with the lice shampoo.
- 2) Pick out all of the nits.
- 3) Re-treat your child with the shampoo 7 days after the initial treatment.

This is an arduous process but with the centre and family working together, this is what is proven to work. Once the child has had the initial treatment they may return to the centre. We do not feel that a child must be kept at home throughout this process, as it may take a week or so to get rid of all the nits. However, we do expect the family to be diligent in treatment and be willing to work with the centre.

Our Responsibility to you:

- check the children’s heads frequently
- inform parents if there are lice found
- supply parents with an information packet on head lice and treatment
- follow up on treatment
- make sure that spare clothes and bedding are washed

-have talks with the children regarding the sharing of hats, clothing, brushes, etc.

Parent's Responsibility to the Centre:

-check your child's hair once a week

-notify us right away if you find lice

treat your child's hair with lice shampoo as soon as possible

-pick out the nits every night until they are all gone

-Re-shampoo your child's hair within 7-10 days of initial treatment Lice are a nuisance but with frequent head checks, early detection, diligence, and cooperation, we will get through this together!