

NORTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA HEAD START

No Nit Head Lice Policy

NESD Head Start follows a No Nit Head Lice Policy to prevent the spread of head lice.

Procedure:

1. Head Start staff will conduct head checks the first day of class each week at centers.
2. Head checks will be conducted at each home base group or at the home visit just before each group session.
3. Head checks will be done if a child is scratching their head or complains of an itchy head.

Examination Procedure:

- a. Use high intensity light, bright light or full sun.
 - b. Use a clean disposable wooden applicator or round toothpick, or a comb for each child.
Part the hair all the way down to the scalp in very small sections.
 - c. Examine the scalp and hair for moving lice and eggs (nits).
 - d. Observe for hatched or unhatched nits affixed to hair shafts.
 - e. Look at the whole head this way.
 - f. Look closely around the top of the neck and ears (the most common location for eggs).
 - g. If lice or nits are found on a child, wash hands prior to checking next child.
 - h. The use of gloves may be worn and changed between checking each person, but are not necessary.
 - i. If combs are used, disinfect combs after each use with the following: Place combs in a pan filled with water. Heat water to 130 degrees F. Allow the combs to soak for 15 minutes.
4. When head lice or nits are found, or reported by the parent, the staff will provide information on the treatment for head lice. Head Start can provide the family with head lice shampoo to treat any member of the family that needs treatment.
 5. If head lice or nits are found on a child, the parent will be notified to pick up the child, and provide effective treatment before the child can be returned to class or group.
 6. Personal belongings will be separated from the other children's items until the child and their belongings are picked up by the parent.
 7. The child will not be excluded from the classroom, but will be monitored closely to avoid close contact with others until the parent arrives.
 8. The child will be allowed to return to class or group when treatment has been given and no lice or nits are found.
 9. Parent must bring child into the site to be checked by staff before returning to determine if the child has been treated (nit free). If parent does not have transportation, a staff person will make arrangements to do a head check.

Policy Council Approval: 5-12-09

Board Approval: 5-12-09

Updated 11-6-15

Cleanup After An Infestation:

- Wash all bedding and clothing that your child has used.
- Wash in hot water (at least 130°F).

OR

- Run them through your dryer's hottest setting for at least 30 minutes.

OR

- Dry clean items that cannot be washed.

ALSO

- Soak all hair care items (such as combs, brushes, hair clips, etc.) in hot water (130°F) for 15 minutes.
- Place items that cannot be cleaned or run through the dryer (i.e. stuffed animals and toys) in a tightly sealed plastic bag for 10–14 days.
- Follow up with the vacuum to get rid of any lice dust or egg shells that were left behind.

How Can I Prevent A Reinfestation?

- ✓ Learn what the signs are so you can catch an infestation early and treat it.
- ✓ Even if all lice and eggs appear to be gone, follow through with the second treatment.
- ✓ When treating, check carefully for eggs and remove all of them.
- ✓ Keep in touch with your child's school so that you'll know if a lice outbreak occurs.
- ✓ Teach your child to avoid sharing personal items with friends at school.
- ✓ Periodically check your entire family's hair for lice and eggs.



Enlarged 5x—Eggs cling tightly to the hair shaft.



Head lice are small and wingless. They vary in size from 1/16" to 1/8".

For more pictures of head lice,
and to watch our how to use videos,
visit www.licefree.com.



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