



City Hall Child Care Society

A NON-PROFIT CENTRE FOR EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

HEAD LICE POLICY & PROTOCOL

City Hall Child Care is sympathetic to the frustration that Head Lice causes. While we understand that Head Lice do not spread illnesses we want to stop the spread and isolate the outbreak. This childcare policy is intended to outline the responsibilities and expectations of both parents and Child Care Program.

HEAD LICE – What are they?

Head Lice are tiny insect that live on the scalp. These insects lay eggs called nits. The nits stick to the hair, very close to the scalp. Nits vary in color and are about 1/3 the size of a sesame seed.

Head Lice spread very easily among children who are together in one place. They are often found in children attending school and daycare.

If you notice your child has Head lice/nits please follow the procedure below to prevent the spread of Head Lice.

What to Look for

- One of the first signs is itching and scratching the head.
- Adult lice are very hard to see, they are very small, look for them moving in the hair.
- Nits are firmly attached to the hair, close to the scalp.
- Nits may look like dandruff but they cannot be flicked or pushed off with a finger.

Where to Look

- Close to the scalp
- Behind ears
- Along the hairline
- Top of the head

If your child has lice...

- **If your child has nits or Head Lice please notify the daycare immediately so we can alert other families to check their child. If your child is found to have headlice while at daycare, parents will be notified to pick up immediately.**
- **Your child must be treated with lice shampoo; this shampoo kills lice but does not get rid of nits.**
- **All nits must be removed prior to their return to daycare.**
- **Your child must be retreated in the recommended time frame.**
- **Remove all nits after shampoo treatment.**
- **It is suggested to minimally shampoo hair between treatments and in the week following the second treatment. This may allow the treatment to work more effectively.**

DURING A LICE OUTBREAK...

Until you are notified that we are Lice free

- **Parents will check their child before coming to daycare to ensure children are nit and lice free.**
- Parents will notify the daycare if nits or Head Lice are found while child is at home even if the child has been treated
- Parents will treat their child with a recommended treatment.
- To routinely check child's hair for nits or lice
- Parents of children with long hair will send them to daycare with their hair tied back

Responsibility of City Hall Child Care;

- To notify child's family as soon as nits or head lice have been confirmed
- To notify all families of a Head Lice outbreak and provide the **HEAD LICE POLICY & PROTOCOL**
- To remove all dramatic play clothing, hats, pillows, blankets etc
- To clean, vacuum, launder as necessary to contain the outbreak
- To provide resources to parents
- To be sympathetic and supportive to the child and family.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO DAYCARE

RETURNING TO DAYCARE

- Your child must be treated with lice shampoo; this shampoo kills lice but does not get rid of nits
- To prevent the spread of Head Lice children with nits and/or Head Lice will be sent home for treatment.
- Your child may return to daycare once they do not have any nits or lice.
- Please give yourself extra time in the morning as Staff will check your child for nits and lice upon arrival.
- If nits or lice are found your child will not be able to attend daycare.

Ridding the Hair of Nits/What to do after shampooing

- After shampooing. Cover hair with conditioner put on enough to cover the whole scalp.
- Use a wide tooth comb to untangle the hair.
- Once untangled, use a fine tooth comb to comb through the hair close to the scalp. Doing this under a bright light is helpful.
- After each stroke, wipe the comb on a paper towel.
- Remove all nits to prevent re hatching....

Please Note: While the lice removal products may work for many cases of lice and should be the first product used to treat lice, other remedies have also proven to be effective especially apple cider vinegar left on hair until dry and then a coating of coconut oil overnight. Nits will have to be manually picked out of the hair which is a time consuming task but the only guaranteed way to ensure they do not hatch after any treatment.

To prevent the spread of Head Lice children with nits and/or Head Lice will be sent home for treatment.

For more information on this topic please refer to:

www.vch.ca/media/SneezesDiseases.pdf

www.HeadLice.org