

HEAD LICE POLICY 2025

Quality Area 2

VALUES

Yackandandah Kindergarten is committed to:

- As far as practicable, providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and any other persons participating in the program
- Responding to the needs of the child who presents with symptoms of an infestation while attending Yackandandah Kindergarten
- Providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding management of infestations.

PURPOSE

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

This policy will provide clear guidelines and procedures for staff, parents/guardians and the committee to follow when:

- An infestation of head lice is suspected at Yackandandah Kindergarten

GUIDELINES

This policy applies to the committee, staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers and students involved with Yackandandah Kindergarten.

Head Lice (Pediculosis) continues to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children.

Head lice infestation is more of a social problem than a public health problem. Head lice are transmitted by having head-to-head contact with someone who has head lice. They are not responsible for the spread of any infectious diseases. Lice may infest anyone; they are not limited to gender, age or socioeconomic position, and outbreaks are common in schools and childcare facilities.

DEFINITIONS

Exclusion: Unable to attend or participate in the program.

Infestation: The lodgement, development and reproduction of arthropods either on the surface of the body of persons or animals, or in clothing, such as head lice.

GUIDELINES

The Committee of Management is responsible for:

- Approving any changes to this policy

The staff are responsible for:

- Distributing up to date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice when required.
- Providing comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children's health at risk.
- Providing clear protocols for any inspection programs, including obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel.
- Providing practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- Distributing letters to all families, not just those found to be infected (Attachment Three)
- Including staff in the inspections
- Ensuring they undertake sufficient training in the detection and management of head lice.
- Include information and updates in the newsletter if required.
- Ensuring the exclusion requirements are adhered to (children not permitted to attend Kinder until after treatment commences and Head Lice Action Form signed off).
- Encouraging parents of children with long hair to tie it back.
- Responding to any questions/concerns that arise in relation to any aspect of the policy
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs

There is no requirement for our kindergarten to undertake head-lice inspections, however, teachers and/or assistants will inspect a child's hair if they have reason to suspect head lice. If live lice are present the staff will:

- Contact parent by phone and ask them to collect the child
- Advise the parent of the inspection and provide a form which advises live lice were found and outlines the actions required
- Ensure the appropriate treatment was administered before allowing the child to return to Yackandandah Kindergarten
- Notify all parents in the group of the detection of head lice to ensure that they check their children and apply appropriate treatments as necessary

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Regularly inspecting all household members and treat them if necessary
- Not allowing their child to attend kindergarten with untreated head lice (in accordance with the Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- Upon detection of head lice, notifying the kindergarten and advise when treatment commenced, (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- Using safe head lice treatments, which do not place their child's health at risk
- Maintaining a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties with control measures
- Agreeing for their child to participate in inspections as necessary undertaken at the kindergarten by completing the written permission notice given at enrolment.
- Acting responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the broader community especially around issues of head lice.
- Ensuring that children with long hair wear it tied back while attending kindergarten

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Head Lice Action Form

Attachment 2: Head Lice Notification Letter

Attachment 3: Sample Privacy Form to be completed upon Enrolment Head Lice Policy.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Yackandandah Kindergarten Committee of Management at a committee meeting in December 2014.

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or varied earlier if necessary, and the committee will within 28 days of making any change, notify the parents/guardians of the children attending, of that change.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS:

- Hygiene
- Infectious Diseases
- Privacy

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- Education & Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education & Care Services National Regulations under the Education & Care Services National Law
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004-Compliance Code (First aid in the workplace)

REVIEW

In accordance with the Policy Review Table, the First Aid Policy will be scheduled for review in 2027.