

HEAD LICE POLICY

Purpose:

Treetops Early Learning Centre is committed to the health and wellbeing of children and supporting families to eliminate the risk of head lice. This procedure provides guidance in the event of head lice.

Procedure:

1. Staff will ensure parents/ caregivers have appropriate information to deal with treating head lice.
2. Senior staff (Team Leaders, supervisors, Centre Directors etc) are permitted to check a child's hair if it is suspected they may have head lice (excessive scratching, observed evidence of head lice etc). This will be done respectfully and out of view of other children.
3. Parents / caregivers will be informed if it is suspected that head lice are in their child's class.
4. If head lice are obviously present parents / caregivers will be contacted and informed immediately. It is at their discretion to collect their child earlier than the booked collection time. No child will be excluded from the centre due to head lice being identified.
5. All affected bedding and hats will be washed according to our laundering of linen policy.
6. Parents / caregivers will be advised to treat their child's hair before they return to the centre.

Reference:

Ministry of Health website

[Http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice](http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice)

Ministry of Education website

<http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/health-and-safety/health-and-wellbeing-programmes/headlice-and-nits-a-guide-for-school-communities/>