

Head Lice Infestation Policy and Procedure

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Jackson County Health Department emphasize that a child be excluded from the classroom if he/she is infested with head lice. The PBP ECEC complies with this requirement by the following procedure:

- Children may be referred to Program Management if symptoms are evident such as: frequent scratching, visible bugs, etc. Symptoms will be documented on the PBP ECEC Accident/Illness Report form.
- Children with live (lice) bugs and/or nits will be sent home for treatment.
- Children may return to the center 24 hours after treatment.
- Parents will be responsible for bringing their child to the office for a follow up check by Program Management upon return.
- Children must be free of live lice and nits before returning to the classroom.
- Parents are encouraged to remove all nits to fully eliminate an infestation.
- Parents must call the center when their child is absent within the first hour of the child's attendance schedule. The bus drivers will be notified in advance.

PBP ECEC teaching staff will do follow-up checks on children who have previously had head lice. However, all children in an affected classroom will be checked as a preventative action of infestation.

5 Steps for Managing Head Lice in the Home

1. Check the whole family for head lice.
 - a. Check all family members for lice and nits.
 - b. Consider calling the doctor to set up an appointment and get treatment advice, if needed.
 - c. Consider taking any family members suspected of having head lice to the doctor as well.
2. See the doctor.
3. Remove lice from the home.
 - a. Identify items that might contain head lice (hats, scarves, hair ties, stuffed animals, car seats, pillows, bedding, and fabric furnishings).
 - b. Machine-wash all washable items in hot water (130 degrees Fahrenheit).
 - c. Seal items that can't be washed in plastic bags for 2 weeks.
4. Share the information.
 - a. Call parents of children who may have been in close contact with the child who is infested with head lice.
 - b. Cancel sleepovers until the child is lice free.
 - c. Notify the child's teacher.
5. Don't bug out.
 - a. Take a deep breath.
 - b. Reassure the child that it's okay.
 - c. Help the child understand that anyone can get head lice.