

**To keep our students healthy . . .**

### **Chilliwack Landing Preschool and Kindergarten Head Lice Policy**

It is our desire to keep our students and school environment healthy. We recommend you check your child frequently. Head checks on all children are done regularly at school.

#### **Important Tips for Removal**

1. Wash your child's hair with a regular shampoo.
2. While the hair is wet, apply plenty of hair conditioner.
3. Comb the hair using a fine nit comb. (These special combs are available at local drugstores.)
  - Comb from the roots upwards.
  - Check the comb for lice, and clear them away in hot soapy water after each sweep.
  - Comb the hair, a little at a time, carefully.
4. Repeat this every 3 days for 2 weeks to get rid of any newly hatched lice.
5. Remember to check everyone in the family for lice or nits.
6. Research has shown that wet combing with conditioner every day for a week (longer if you keep finding live lice) is also very effective.
7. If this proves not to work after several days, use a commercial nit/lice shampoo and carefully follow the instructions on the bottle.

#### **Home Tips for Dealing with Head Lice**

- Machine wash and hot air dry all bed linens and blankets. Vacuum mattress. Stuffed animals and pillows can be a source of lice. Machine wash and hot air dry or place in your freezer for 48 hours.
- Check every family member for nits/lice under bright lighting.
- If you are concerned about head lice on carpets or furniture, vacuum them thoroughly. NEVER spray them with a pesticide.
- Clean brushes, combs, and hair accessories after each use with hot soapy water or white vinegar.
- Do not share brushes and combs.
- Teach your children not to share hats, head-gear, scarves, headphones and grooming items (combs, hairbrushes, etc.) and to avoid direct head-to-head contact.
- Watch for signs of head lice. Lice are easier to eliminate if caught early.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Chilliwack Landing Preschool and Kindergarten maintains a NO NIT policy in regard to head lice and the presence of lice eggs (nits). Head lice are annoying and can cause itching, but they do not transmit or cause disease. Lice can spread in any situation where groups gather in close and frequent contact. For these reasons, head lice infestations should be treated.

It is important to keep in mind that the presence of head lice is not a reflection on the level of cleanliness, parenting ability or social status of a home. Head lice and nits are mainly a nuisance due to itching and irritation, but they are nevertheless very easily spread, and can quickly infest numerous people without quick action to control them.

Staff will perform weekly spots checks for the presence of the head lice and nits, although it is the presence of nits that it is the indicator of an infestation, because the actual louse moves quickly and hides in other areas on the head, body or clothing.

Parents/Guardians are asked to do their own head lice and nits checks each week, and that way any outbreak can be quickly and effectively controlled.

If a staff member checks a child, and it is found that there are nits present, we will contact the parent/guardian and ask to have their child picked up, so treatment can start as quickly as possible.

A staff member will provide parents/guardians with a checklist of steps that must be followed, and a form, which must be signed and returned by the parent/guardian, stating what steps have been performed. Only after the child is treated, has had all of the nits removed from their head, and the other steps on the list completed and the form signed and returned, can the child return to the classroom. Upon returning a staff member will recheck the child to confirm that no nits are present.

Please note that all monthly fees are not affected by this and are still required to be paid in full and on time.

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Connie Prachnau Director

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Parent / Guardian

