

Early Learning

Agreement 14.6

Consent to conduct a head lice inspection

We are aware that head lice infestation can be a sensitive issue and are committed to maintaining children's confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation at all times. Management of head lice infestation is most effective when all children and their families actively support our policy and participate in our screening program.

- All inspections will be conducted in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner, and information about why the inspections are conducted and the benefits of preventing infestations will be explained to children prior to conducting the inspections.
- Only the Responsible Person or an external person approved by the service, such as a nurse employed by the local council, will be permitted to carry out inspections on children at the service.
- Each child's hair will be inspected for the presence of head lice or lice eggs.
- Where live head lice are found, the service will notify the parents when the child is collected from the service and will provide them with relevant information about the treatment of head lice.

Other families will be provided with a notice to inform that head lice have been detected in the group and to encourage them to be vigilant and carry out regular inspections of their own child.

- ♦ **Please note** that while head lice do not spread disease, they are included in the [Department of Health's exclusion table](#) which defines the minimum period of exclusion from a children's service for children with infectious diseases. According to this table, where a child has head lice, that child must be excluded until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.

