Head Lice Procedure

Regulations		
EHS/HS: 1302.47 (7)(iii)	ECEAP: PAO-26	WAC: 110-300-0205 (6)

Head Lice

General Guidelines

- Immediate or long-term exclusion is not required. Children with live head lice can remain in class and go homeat the end of the school day, be treated, and returned to school after the treatment has begun. Children can return to school with nits following treatment.
- Notify the parent/guardian of the suspected case. Offer *Head Lice- Who Does What Chart* and suggest resources for parents on how to treat head lice, such as: Amercian Academy of Pediatrics

- Maintain and support confidentiality for the student and family.
- Post *Head Lice Exposure Notice.*
- Staff will not screen children.
- Refer to a licensed health care provider for evaluation of secondary infection (such as skin infections from scratching) if suspected.
- Use universal precautions.
- Discreetly manage lice infestations so that the child is not ostracized, isolated, humiliated, or traumatized.
- Children should be discouraged from close head-to head contact with others.
- Follow up with the family to ensure that the infestation is being addressed.

Classroom Guidelines

- Vacuum all rugs, upholstered furniture, car or infant seats and anything that cannot be washed with warm soapy water.
- Wipe down bicycle helmets with a damp cloth.
- Wipe down headsets.
- Discard and/or replace vacuum cleaner bags and/or contents.
- Do not use spray insecticides or lice sprays in the classroom or outside. It can cause allergic or toxic reactions in children and staff.
- Wash all clothing, bedding, and linen from person with head lice in hot water and use a high heat drying cycle for at least 5 minutes.
- Dress-up clothing and hats should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer for at least 5 minutes or tightly bagged for 2 weeks.
- Items that cannot be washed such as pillows/stuffed animals should be placed in a dryer using a high heat cycle for at least 5 minutes or tightly bagged for 2 weeks.
- Discourage children from sharing combs, hats, coats, or other clothing.
- Keep coats and hats separated on different hooks or hangers so they do not touch.
- No need to re-examine child(ren) when returning to class after treatment has begun.