

Tri-County Community Council, Inc.
Head Start/Early-Head Start

Part: 1302 Program Operations

Subpart: D-Health Program Services

Section: 1302.47 Safety Practices

Subject: Head Lice

Policy:

Head Start/Early Head Start has a no live bug policy due to head lice being so widespread. If a child shows signs of head lice, that child will be sent home either at the end of the day or as soon as possible following the policy steps. Upon returning to school, the child will be checked again by a designated Head Start/Early Head Start staff, before returning to the classroom.

Procedure:

1. Parents/guardians will be notified that live lice were found in the child's hair.
2. Head Start/Early Head Start will send instructions on treating head lice to parents/guardians.
3. The child must be treated with a recognized lice treatment, available at most drug stores, discount stores, and the health department. The child's primary care can prescribe shampoo that can be paid for by Medicaid.
4. The child shall be permitted to return once treatment has been completed. The parent/guardian must bring the child to the center and wait while the child is being checked for clearance to return to the classroom. A designated person must sign a clearance form.
5. The parent/guardian must provide proof of treatment such as a box top, bottle label or cash register receipt of the solution used to treat head lice, or the parent/guardian must sign a form stating treatment was administered to child.
6. The child is allowed only three (3) days of excused absence for head lice.
7. Center must treat areas, equipment, toys, and furnishings that the child came into contact with.
8. The child can remain at school until the end of the school day or until the staff is able to contact the parent/guardian to have the child picked up. The child will be monitored closely until their parent/guardian is contacted to pick up the child.
9. The child will be monitored for signs of live bugs and procedures will be followed to ensure steps are being made to have the child cleared of lice.