



# Spencer Park Primary School

## Head Lice (Pediculus Capitis) Policy (2010)

### RATIONALE

Head lice and nits (eggs) are an ongoing problem in our community. They require that we regularly check to see if our children are infested and require treatment. The support of parents in checking their children is paramount in assisting the school in keeping head lice and nits under control.

### POLICY

The Education Department of WA has an established policy which must be implemented into our schools.

- # *Under Regulation 29, a teacher has authority to inspect a child's head if he or she has reasonable grounds for believing that it is infested with lice and if satisfied that it is to report the fact to the Principal, who may exclude the child from school.*
- # *A child may return to the school once one of the recommended treatments had commenced and all of the living lice and most of the eggs have been removed: a few remaining eggs should not cause exclusion.*

### SCHOOL PROCESSES

Once either lice or nits have been identified the school will then follow a prescribed format. The Principal will need to make a discretionary judgement based on ensuring that other children are not subject to further infestation.

#### LIVE LICE ACTION PLAN

1. Contact parent regarding child's exclusion from school.
2. Provide information about treatment.
3. Give information regarding re-inclusion requirements (ie. School needs to establish that the child has been treated).
4. Letter to parents of other children in class informing them of infestation.

#### NITS (EGGS) ACTION PLAN

1. Letter home to parent informing them of the situation.
2. Provide information regarding action required.
3. Instructions regarding re-inclusion of the student.
4. Letter to parents of other children in class informing them of infestation.

### STRATEGIES

#### SCHOOL

1. Legless is Eggless – regularly give information via the newsletter of the value in daily brushing.
2. Create a healthy and responsible attitude to lice and nits.
3. Encourage children to take responsibility for their own hair.
4. We strongly suggest that long hair should be tied back at school.
5. Regularly informing the school community of best practice in lice and nit eradication.
6. It's recommended that school keep a record (see appendix).
7. Regular checks via Nitbusters.

#### FAMILIES

1. Check hair regularly.
2. Practice the Legless is Eggless routines with children.
3. Ensure children's hair is tied back before school.
4. Understand appropriate treatments (contact Community Health).



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dear Parent or Caregiver

Your child has been found to have **live head lice**.

As a consequence of this it is necessary under Regulation 29 of the Education Department to exclude your child from school until the hair has been treated (information regarding treatment is supplied with this letter).

The life cycle of head lice is three weeks and lice can be hatching all the time. It is essential to check every seven days at least and if necessary re-treat.

Keeping long hair tied back will help reduce the occurrence of head lice.

Re-admittance requires that your child must visit the school office for examination before attending class.

The processes described in this letter are to ensure all children in our school can be protected from this ongoing problem.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Jeremy Hadlow  
PRINCIPAL

**SPENCER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

[www.spencerparkps.wa.edu.au](http://www.spencerparkps.wa.edu.au)  
26 Hardie Road, Spencer Park (Albany) WA 6330  
Tel (08) 6821 3000  
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**Please complete and return this section to the school office**

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room No \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge receipt of this letter and have treated my child's hair with a recommended treatment.

Date of treatment \_\_\_\_\_

Name of treatment \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dear Parent or Caregiver

Unfortunately your child has been found to have nits (eggs).

This is an obvious sign of head lice activity in your child's hair.

You may have only recently treated your child's hair. If not we ask you to carry this out as soon as possible. Nits left untreated may result in your child being excluded from school due to the presence of live lice.

We ask that you return the form below so that we are informed about the treatment that is being carried out at home.

Our school is committed to ensuring that all children remain protected from this ongoing problem.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dear Parent or Caregiver

Your child has been found to have **new/old nits (eggs)** – it is easy to miss a new egg when checking and we ask that all old eggs be removed. The most efficient way to remove old eggs is by hand or nit comb.

The cycle of head lice is three weeks but lice are hatching all the time. It is essential to check every seven days at least and if necessary re-treat with chemical. Please refer to the school's information package or contact the school for further advice.

Keeping long hair tied back will help reduce the occurrence of head lice.

We need to remind you that under Regulation 19 A of the Education Department regulations your child can be excluded if an infestation remains untreated. Children are expected to return to school the day after treatment has commenced.

On return your child must visit the school office for examination before being admitted to class.

Our school is committed to ensuring that all children remain protected from this ongoing problem.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dear Parent or Caregiver

You need to be aware that a case of head lice has been found in your child's class.

We ask that over the next few weeks you check your child's hair as regularly as possible to ensure that we prevent further infestation within the class room.

This letter is a part of an overall strategy to reduce the incidence of this problem in our school. Your support in this situation is appreciated and will help to combat the difficult problem of head lice.

Yours faithfully  
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## TREATMENT OF LICE - INFORMATION PACKAGE PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET

### MALATHION - LOTION 0.5%

- Cleensheen
- Lice Rid
- Nick Off Nits
- KP 24
- **head lice**
- age >6 months
- The recommended treatment of choice for head, body and pubic lice is Malathion Lotion 0.4% - 1%.
  - because of its low toxicity
  - residual effect for up to six weeks.
- Malathion
  - organophosphorous insecticide
  - inhibits cholinesterase
  - nerve poison
- Will reliably kill the eggs as well as the adult lice - repeated use not usually necessary.

### APPLICATION OF LOTION

- Generally 0.5% alcoholic solution.
- 20 – 40ml, depending on hair thickness and length, is applied to the hair roots and scalp and left on for 12 hours.
- The alcoholic solvent evaporates quickly, leaving a faint, non greasy sheen on the hair.
- The hair must be allowed to dry naturally, as the heat from a hair dryer will destroy the **insecticide**.
- The eyes must be protected.
- Wash out with normal shampoo and comb while wet with a fine toothed comb to remove eggs.
- The alcohol-based lotions should not be used on:
  - Babies under 6 months of age
  - Asthmatics – alcohol fumes may provoke an attack
  - Skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis etc
- Flammable – keep away from flames and lighted cigarettes.

### MALATHION - SHAMPOO 1%

- KP 24
  - age > 2 years
  - can repeat ever 6-7 days for 6 weeks

### APPLICATION OF SHAMPOO

- The shampoos are 1%.
- Apply to the hair and rinse out after 5 minutes.
- Allow to dry naturally without heat
- Less effective – much shorter contact time.

### SIDE EFFECTS

- Malathion is absorbed through the skin but is quickly metabolised in the body.
- The amount used in a treatment is very small compared to the amount required to be toxic to humans.
- Professionals – use gloves.
- Normal home use – handwashing after application is sufficient.
- Some allergic reactions on the skin.
- Poisoning only if a large amount (more than 50ml) is swallowed. Seek advice from the Poisons Information Centre.

## PERMETHRIN

- Nix Cream Rinse
  - Permethrin 1% & Isopropyl Alc 20%
  - **head lice**
  - can repeat 14 days
  - age >6 months
- Quellada Cream Rinse
  - **Quellada Treatment**
  - Permethrin 1%
- Pyrifoam
  - Permethrin 1%
  - **head lice**
  - can repeat 7 days
  - age >6 months
- Orange Medic
  - Permethrin 0.2% in citrus oils
  - Use as conditioner, towel dry, do not rinse out
- Has extremely low toxicity – less than 2% is absorbed.
- Some products don't recommend use in child less than 6 months, some less than 2 years.
- Adverse effects are local only – transient burning, stinging and pruritis.
- Preferable to the natural pyrethrins: more reliable and has some residual action up to 24 hours

### APPLICATION

- HDWA guidelines – three applications with a three day interval between.
- Usage instructions vary with the product.
- Apply to damp hair after shampooing, or to dry hair. Leave on hair for 10 mins or as manufacturer directs. Shampoo or rinse out with warm water. Comb while wet with a fine-toothed comb. Can repeat but interval varies from 7 – 14 days.
- If product gets into eyes, flush with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
- Professionals should use gloves. For home use – wash hands after use with detergent and warm water, **not soap**.

## PYRETHRINS

- Banlice Mousse
  - Pyrethrins 0.165%
  - Piperonyl Butox 1.65%
  - Quaternium52 1%
  - Ethanol
  - **head lice**
  - repeat 8-10 days if necessary
  - flammable
- Lyban Foam
  - Pyrethrins 0.165%
  - Piperonyl Butox 2%
  - Deod kerosene 5%
  - **all types of lice**
  - apply to wet hair, scalp or skin
  - max 2 repeats in 24 hrs
  - flammable
- Paralice Spray
  - Biallethrin 0.66%
  - Piperonyl Butox 2.64%
  - **all types of lice**
  - spray on dry hair, leave on 10-30 mins
  - light spray as a preventative in outbreaks
  - spray clothing/bedding
  - flammable

### PYRETHRINS AND PYRETHROIDS

- Pyrethrins – extract from the pyrethrum flower.
- They are used in strengths of 0.16% – 0.2%
- Pyrethroids are the synthetic derivatives (eg permethrin). 1% strength is used.
- They are an alternative when allergy reactions have occurred to malathion.
- Delay repolarisation of the cell membrane and paralyses the lice.
- Resistance has developed to these products overseas.

### PYRETHRINS

- Not used in children less than 2 years.
- Very irritating to the eyes and mucosa. Effects on the skin: erythema, scaling, stinging, burning, scalp discomfort, oedema, numbness, tingling, rash
- Effectiveness enhanced by addition of piperonyl butoxide, but still not reliably ovicidal, so they are not the best choice – not used at PMH.

## REMOVAL OF NITS (Eggs)

- Fine toothed comb. May be easier to loosen the glue if comb towards the scalp.
- Mechanical removal with fingernails or cotton wool.
- Vinegar in an equal volume of water
  - may help to dissolve the glue
  - may need to leave in the hair for approximately one hour