

Every child has a right to feel safe and secure within the OSHC environment. The OSHC service will take steps to prevent the transmission and spread of infectious diseases and infestations.

In the event that an educator suspects that a child in attendance at the service is suffering from an infectious disease:

- The child will be withdrawn from the main group and taken to a separate area, where the educator will further assess the child's current health condition and maintain surveillance whilst making the child comfortable.
- The parent/caregiver will be contacted to collect the child
- The family will be asked to notify the service once a diagnosis has been made by a doctor, if infectious/contagious, so that service notifications can be put into place (i.e. notifying other families)
- Confidentiality will be maintained and only the name and nature of the infectious disease is available to families
- Ensure that information regarding the infectious disease is available to families (fliers resourced from SA Health or Staying Healthy in Childcare)
- Ensure that information regarding the occurrence and nature of the infectious disease is prominently displayed (i.e. poster on parent board)
- Ensure that documentation regarding the infectious disease and the actions taken by the service comply with Regulations
- The service will make information on immunisation available to families as this is a key to infection control

When an outbreak of head lice or other transmittable infestations occur, the service will follow procedures as for infectious diseases.

The service will act to prevent the spread of infectious diseases/infestations by:

- Ensuring current information about infectious diseases is held at the service
- Providing information to families regarding infectious diseases and exclusion periods from the service if necessary
- Providing appropriate hand washing facilities and supplies
- Encouraging effective hand washing techniques
- Providing appropriate first aid supplies
- Educators will wear disposable gloves when dealing with bodily fluids
- Excluding children from the service who are suffering from an infectious disease
- Notifying families when an infectious disease has occurred at the service
- Providing information about immunisation and that vaccine preventable disease covered by the Childhood Immunisation Program mean that non-immunised children under the age of 6 must be excluded in accordance with the SA Health directives.

The Director is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the services practices and procedures minimise the spread of infection/infestation by:
 - regularly disinfecting and cleaning all equipment
 - ensuring that there is no sharing of drinking/eating utensils
 - (in the case of head lice) removing soft furnishings, washing the 'dress ups' and restricting access to them until the immediate risk passes.
- Ensuring the service holds information on specific diseases and exclusion periods and this information is available to educators and families; and that the Staying Healthy in Child Care document is accessible to educators at all times.
- Ensuring that any updates to the documents are made available to all educators in a timely fashion.
- Ensuring that information regarding the service's policy on exclusion of children with infectious diseases is made available to families in the family information pack, along with the recommendation that families keep children who are unwell at home

Head Lice

When head lice have been identified in children at Norwood Out of School Care the following procedures are immediately put in place. Whilst all children may not be infected, head lice are extremely contagious. Families will be notified when there is an infestation of head lice at the service.

To quickly resolve the problem, we will ask that all parents:

- **Inspect their child's hair and scalp**
- **Take precautions against spreading in the form of Head Lice treatments**

We will inform parents that the following are the symptoms or signs to look for which would indicate the presence of Head Lice:

- **General** – child scratching his/her head excessively
- **On the pillow** – fine black powder or paler coloured material
- **In the hair** – “Nits”, the lice eggs, seen as cream to coffee coloured specks stuck near the hair roots
- **The lice themselves** – small white to greyish parasites about as big as a pin head

If further information is requested by parents, we would direct them to/or access for them the ‘What You’ve Got’ document on the SA Health website or information in ‘Staying Healthy in Child Care’ which is free to download and also available on site. We would also advise parents that if any of the above signs are noticed and they require further advice, they should contact their local pharmacist. Head Lice treatments are readily available from the pharmacy.

In order to ensure that the problem is solved as quickly as possible, we would encourage all parents to carry out a head lice inspection and if there is evidence of Head Lice, to apply a treatment as soon as possible. The S.A. Health’s directive will be followed which outlines that a child presenting with head lice may be excluded until appropriate treatment has been commenced.

Parental permission is required for OSHC educators to carry out a head lice check on children at OSHC.

National Law & Regulations:

Section: [51\(1\)\(a\), 166](#)

Regulations: [77-81, 85-96](#)

Resources / References:

Staying Healthy in Child Care – preventing infectious diseases in child care. Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch43

NR 168 – dealing with infectious diseases

Early Childhood Services and Immunisation Requirements – www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation

National Quality Standard:

2.1 Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted