

CHILD CARE PREPARED...

To Prevent Transmission of Bugs (Head Lice, Bed Bugs, Fleas, and Scabies)

INFORMATION FOR THE LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER

BASIC RESPONSE MEASURES WHEN A CHILD MIGHT BE INFESTED:

Be non-judgmental: these conditions are more and more common. They are **not** a sign of bad hygiene. **Anyone** can be affected, not just low-income families.

Don't jump to conclusions or diagnose. Talk to the parent about what you **see**. Catch a sample bug (tape to a piece of paper), Suggest that the family seek advice from medical clinic or pharmacist to make decisions about correct treatment.

Encourage parents to read and follow product labels exactly. Pharmacists can be helpful in explaining how to use products. In addition, family and household members, and the home environment (including pillows, car seats, toys, and carpet) need washing and vacuuming to remove live lice.

Keep communication open and respectful. Ask families to let you know about treatment measures. Is the child experiencing any discomfort or side effects? Were treatment instructions understood and followed exactly?

The child with live head lice or scabies should be excluded from child care until treated. Once treated, with no live lice remaining, the child may return to child care, even if nits (eggs) are present. Check the head again in 7-10 days to see that no eggs have hatched with live lice emerging.

The child with visible bites (as from insects, including fleas, chiggers, and bed bugs) does not need to be excluded from child care. This child poses no risk to others. BUT the condition should be discussed with parents.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR A BUG-FREE CHILD CARE:

Young children in group settings provide an ideal situation for transmission of pests. The pests may come from ANYWHERE in the community. Prepare!

Use your policies and practices to communicate that your goal is a child care environment free of pests and transmission. Show families the ways you keep your child care setting clean and free of pests. **(Do not use any chemical insecticide products where children will be exposed during or after use!)**

A child who is scratching is a warning sign. Tiny insects on the skin or hair, rashes, and skin infections all need to be looked into. Contact parent and be open and non-judgmental in your communication. Ask the parent to examine their child with you.

Make parents your partners in creating and maintaining a bug-free child care. If an infestation does happen, show families you know what needs to be done. Check all children, or ask families to inspect their own children. Don't forget to include staff.

As much as possible, try to isolate items brought from home. Don't mingle back packs and jackets. Individual cubbies, boxes, or bags for each child are perfect!

If you host animals in your environment, be aware animals can be the source of fleas and some skin infections for humans.

In sleeping areas, wash bedding frequently and dry in a very hot dryer. All bedding should be washable. Mats, if used, should be sanitized frequently.

WEB RESOURCES FOR MANAGING PEST INFESTATIONS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND FREE:

From the University of Nebraska Lincoln
Lancaster County Extension Services:

Resources on the identification and management
of Bed Bugs:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/bugs.shtml>
<http://pested.unl.edu/schoolipm>

Fleas and their management:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/Fleas.shtml>

Head lice resources:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/lice/>

What you need to know about scabies:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/336Scabies.pdf>

From the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention:

On Bed Bugs:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Topics/bedbugs.htm>

On Head Lice:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>

On Scabies:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>

From the California Child Care Health Program:
Bed Bugs - What You Need To Know:

http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/factsheets/BedBugs_en_0709.pdf

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Ed.

<http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/index.html/> See:

Standard 7.5.8.1 Attendance of Children with
Head Lice

Standard 7.5.11.1 Attendance of Children with
Scabies

Standard 6.4.2.1 Riding Toys with Wheels and
Wheeled Equipment (includes precautions for
head lice and cleaning of helmets).

Standard 3.6.1.1 Inclusion/Exclusion/Dismissal
of Children (exclusion for head lice or scabies
until treated).

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www.dhhs.ne.gov/TogetherKidsFamilies

and

http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/lifespanhealth_childcarehealthconsultation.aspx