

Lice Policy

Head lice are a growing problem and a hot topic in schools and other programs, such as camps, where people are in close contact with one another. The nature of the life cycle of lice can make it very difficult to identify cases of lice, particularly in the early stages. Head lice are unpleasant to have and a huge burden to eliminate. And while they do not transmit disease like other pests such as ticks, mosquitos, and bats, they are highly contagious. Campfire! is committed to minimizing the likelihood of transmitting head lice at camp. We know that guarantees are impossible since lice can and do arise anywhere, but we are determined to do the best we can. We have therefore adopted a no nit policy. Children with any evidence of lice, including nits (egg casings) alone, will not be able to participate in the camp program.

There has been a shift in what is considered the best practice in school settings regarding the exclusion of children with lice, and understand that lifeless nits may be present when the risk of transmission no longer exists. But children have more contact at camp than at school and the risk of transmission is therefore greater. Without a microscope, there is no reliable way to determine if nits are viable or not. Camp is not in a position to take chances (or to conduct microscopic screenings). With our sympathies to those children and families who will inevitably be inconvenienced, we have concluded that the no nit approach is the wisest one for the camp environment. With this in mind, camp is implementing the following policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of a lice outbreak at camp as well as being sensitive to the workload of Campfire! health staff.

1. Prior to camp, we strongly recommend having your child checked for lice by your pediatrician or a certified lice specialist. This is especially important if your child has had lice or been exposed to lice in the months leading up to camp.
2. When your child first arrives at camp we will do an initial screening of every camper.
3. If your child is identified as having lice or nits, as the parent, you then will have two choices:

Option 1: Campfire will treat your child with their pesticide free product Resultz. For more information about this product please see their website <https://resultz.ca/> This product is designed to be used twice, 7 days apart. Campfire's lice committee will provide the first treatment promptly and discreetly before interacting with other children.

Option 2: Parents can pick up their child within 6 hours of the phone call informing them of the lice and/or nits. Campers may only return to camp once they have been identified as free from lice and nits by a professional lice company. Proof of treatment must be presented upon returning to camp. Campfire Bible Camp will not incur the cost of treatment nor provide a refund of fees for any camp activities missed.

4. Campers who are identified as having lice will be separated from their cabinpack and will not be allowed to participate in Camp activities until they are treated. They will receive treatment and will stay until cleared by the Lice Committee.
5. All campers and staff who arrive after the first day of Camp will be screened on the day they arrive by nursing staff or lice committee.
6. If lice are discovered during camp and after the initial screening has been conducted:
 - a. The other children in that camper's cabin will be re-screened
 - b. The families of other children in that camper's cabin will be advised by email correspondence.