



## **Lice Policy**

With lice as a pervasive concern of our larger ecosystem and community, RMCS understands that it will not completely evade lice in our community. RMCS will, however, manage consistently and effectively in prevention of epidemics.

## **Responsibilities**

### School

Maintain an awareness of behaviors and practices that transmit lice.

Be knowledgeable about lice contagion, prevention practices, treatment, and policies.

Provide health information to parents to further increase understanding of lice, lice prevention, and lice treatment.

Require school faculty and staff to report suspected cases of lice or nits immediately. Such cases shall be examined as well as siblings of the affected child.

Conduct periodic checks to ensure proper prevention, including a start to a new school year, return from breaks, and when two or more children in a classroom have been identified.

Perform head checks with our Volunteer School Nurse, trained River Staff, or trained volunteers from outside the school to protect the privacy and dignity of students.

If a child has been determined to have active head lice or a number of nits, and a nurse or other person trained in lice detection believes the infestation to be active because of the number of or presentation of the nits, the child is excluded from attendance immediately. Parents/guardians of the affected child will be informed and advised of information and treatment procedures. When a child identified with lice or several nits returns to school, RMCS will check the child upon re-admittance to school and require a box top of CDC/CDPH/CDE approved products. The RMCS Volunteer School Nurse will work individually with families of chronic cases.

If a child is found to have live lice or several nits, the parent/guardian will be made aware with both a phone call and an email form with clear instructions for treatment practices.

If live lice or several nits are detected, all families of the school will be advised via email that a case has been identified so that parents may begin checking immediately and thoroughly at home.

School faculty and staff shall maintain the privacy of any children identified as having head lice or nits and excluded from attendance.

### Families

Awareness of behaviors and practices that transmit lice.

Be knowledgeable about lice contagion, prevention practices, treatment, and policies.

When notified of a case in child's classroom, check child/ren thoroughly at home on a daily basis.

Notify the school immediately if there is suspicion of a child having lice.

Parents shall maintain the privacy of any children identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

### Children

Awareness of behaviors and practices that transmit lice.

Be knowledgeable about lice contagion, prevention practices, treatment, and policies.

Not sharing head accessories such as brushes, hair bands, ties, hats, and scarves.

Advise parent, faculty, or staff if they are persistently itchy.

Hats, scarves, sweatshirts, and other clothing around the head should be worn or kept separately in individual cubbies.

Children shall maintain the privacy of any children identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

RMCS reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

**ADOPTED:** November 13, 2010

3880 Cypress Drive Petaluma, CA 94954 707-778-6414 tel 707-773-5300 fax

*River Montessori Charter School does not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).*