



Head Lice Policy

Head lice can affect individuals from any socio-economic background or ethnicity and their presence does not indicate poor hygiene or lack of cleanliness.

To help prevent the spread of head lice within the setting, we ask that parents work in partnership with us to identify and treat infestations promptly.

Procedure

If a child in our care is observed frequently scratching their head, we may check their hair for signs of head lice or nits. If lice or nits are found, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child.

Appropriate treatment should be applied as soon as possible. A second treatment should then be applied **7 days later**, in line with treatment guidance. This is important as the head lice life cycle can last between **1–2 weeks**, and the second treatment helps eliminate any eggs that may have hatched after the first treatment.

Due to the age of the children in our care, we require that children remain at home until the **second treatment has been completed**. This helps ensure the life cycle has been broken and reduces the risk of the infestation spreading to other children.

Young children often play in close proximity and may have close contact with one another during play, cuddles and comfort. It is therefore difficult to prevent the spread of head lice once they are present within the setting.

Prevention

Parents can help reduce the risk of head lice by:

- Tying back long hair where possible
- Checking their child's hair regularly using a fine head lice comb
- Carrying out checks more frequently if there have been cases of head lice at school, within the family or among close contacts

Communication

Parents are asked to inform us **as soon as possible** if their child has been found to have head lice.

If a case of head lice is identified within the setting, all parents will be informed so they can check their children. However, the identity of the child affected will remain confidential in order to respect family privacy.