

TWY Head Lice Policy

Head Lice can affect people from any social-economic background and ethnicity and do not imply a lack of hygiene or cleanliness of the infested person.

In order to try and prevent other children becoming infected we have put together the following procedure. We hope that as Parents you too will work with us to prevent and treat the spread of head lice.

If we notice a child in our care scratching their head we will check them for lice/nits. If these are present they will be sent home. Once the treatment has been applied you will need to follow this up with a second treatment 7 days later. The lice/nit cycle is between 1-2 weeks, so the second treatment should eliminate any eggs that may have missed the first, and could have potentially hatched. The lice are so small when they first hatch and are difficult to spot.

We appreciate in schools' children can attend as long as they have been treated. However, **we will not be able to care for your child until the second treatment has been applied.** This is to ensure the cycle has been broken and prevent it spreading.

As we care for very young children/babies/toddlers it is very hard to stop them getting close to each other. They often play in very close proximity, where their heads might be touching. They also require cuddles and comforting, and often like to just snuggle up. To try and keep them separated is just not possible.

In order to prevent catching head lice it may be an idea for you to;

- Tie children's hair back/up if they have long hair
- Check your children's hair once a week with a special head lice comb to aid early detection. Especially if you are aware it has been at a sibling's school, or anyone you have been in contact with has had it.

We will

- Request that parents inform us immediately if they have discovered that their child has head lice.
- Inform all parents using my service if a child has head lice but I will not say whom, to respect confidentiality.

