



Headlice Policy

Unfortunately, head lice are becoming more common amongst younger children. The management are able to provide you with useful information if you have any concerns regarding this issue. In order to care for all the children on site and reduce spread, we have introduced the following;

- If nits are found / seen on your child's hair you will be informed and given information, if you require it.
- You may be asked to collect your child from the pre-school. This decision will not be made lightly and respect and dignity of the children maintained. Consideration to the wellbeing and discomfort the child may be in due to the nits is main priority.
- Children and the whole family should be treated and the child can return to pre-school once the nits have been eradicated.

Children learn and play closely together and in order to reduce the spread of nits we may on occasion have to ask a parent to collect a child or keep them at home until the nits are removed. This may seem harsh but we are trying to think of all children at the setting.

Good practice guidelines:

- Staff to maintain confidentiality to ensure that the child/ren are not made to feel embarrassed or self-conscious. Also ensuring that the child's emotional and social needs are not hindered by the infection.
- In the event of a large outbreak a discreet note should be placed on the parent information board/sent via email to ask all parents/carers to check their child's hair and treat if necessary.
- Staff must take responsibility for checking their own hair regularly.
- Staff are advised to wear their hair tied up to reduce the risk of contracting head lice.
- Staff must not physically check children's heads for head lice as this is now seen as inappropriate under safeguarding guidelines.
- Managers should refer to the Health team if serious persistent cases are not treated properly by the parents. If there are additional concerns the manager may need to refer to MASH.