**Head lice Policy**

Head lice and nits are very common in young children. They don't have anything to do with dirty hair and are usually picked up from head-to-head contact.

In order to try to prevent children becoming infected I have put together the following procedure. To be able to ensure that an outbreak does not occur I will need you as parents to work with me to prevent and treat the spread of head lice.

* No child will be excluded from my care because they have head lice and I ask that all children and parents are sensitive and understanding towards the child. It is not their fault they have head lice. However, should you find that your child has head lice, please can you treat them before they return to my care.
* I request that all children with long hair wear their hair up to prevent the spread of head lice
* I request that parents check their children’s hair at least once a week with a special head lice comb to aid early detection
* I request that parents inform me immediately if they have discovered that their child has head lice.
* I will inform all parents using my service if a child has head lice, but I will not say who, to respect confidentiality
* I am happy to support parents with the manual removal of head lice using a special comb. Please discuss this with me first though as I cannot check a child’s head without parental consent.
* I will assist in the prevention of head lice by ensuring all play dressing up hats, and bedding etc are regularly cleaned

The NHS information on head lice can be found at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice) . A pharmacy should also be able to help with advice on what treatment to use. I recommend the Nitty Gritty comb which has long teeth and spirals on the teeth which help to remove the eggs as well as the lice.

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