

## HEAD LICE POLICY

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2	Revision to existing document	K Cox	07-07-06
3	Revision to existing document	A Fuller	14-04-08
4	Update to existing document	K Cox	23-06-09

We are aware that head lice can be a persistent problem in many pre-school settings. This policy outlines how we address the problem.

- Children and staff with long hair are encouraged to tie their hair back
- Children will not be excluded from attending nursery if they have head lice, except in exceptional circumstances e.g. where a child has head lice for longer than three weeks
- Any child attending the nursery with head lice must wear their hair up at all times.
- Parents/carers will be encouraged to inform staff if their child has head lice
- Staff will display a notice informing parents/carers when cases of head lice have been reported
- Staff will provide parents/carers with information about how to treat and prevent infections of head lice
- Staff are not permitted to check children's hair for lice as it is classed as a child protection issue. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to check their child's hair on a regular basis for head lice

### Prevention and treatment of head lice

- Head lice can be treated by the application of head lice shampoo, lotion or ordinary hair conditioner followed by thorough combing with a nit comb
- Head lice can be treated and prevented by following a regular routine of washing, conditioning and nit combing the hair every four days for a period of four weeks, and thereafter conditioning and nit combing after every shampoo
- Head lice can be deterred by adding a few drops of tea tree oil to the final rinse when washing hair, or by using Nitty Gritty head lice repellent spray [www.nittygritty.co.uk](http://www.nittygritty.co.uk). They also sell a special NitFree Comb and aromatherapy head lice solution
- Bug Buster kits are available from some pharmacies, or by mail order from:  
Community Hygiene Concern  
Manor Gardens Centre  
6-9 Manor Gardens  
London  
N7 6LA  
Helpline: 020 7686 4321  
[www.chc.org/bugbusting](http://www.chc.org/bugbusting)  
The kit includes an illustrated guide and set of combs to physically remove any lice found and is an ideal way to prevent head lice. Only one kit is required per family and it is reusable.