



Starlings Preschool Head Lice Policy

Policy statement

We are aware that head lice can be a persistent problem in many preschool settings. This policy outlines how we address the problem. Our aim is to deal with head lice within the setting in a sympathetic, yet effective way.

Procedures

- Children and staff with long hair are encouraged to tie their hair back
- Children will not be excluded from attending preschool if they have head lice, however once headlice have been spotted the parent will be called to collect and treat their child and then they are able to come back straight away.
- 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.

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

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.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Starlings Pre-school (name of provider)
Held on _____ (date)
Date to be reviewed _____ (date)
Signed on behalf of the provider _____
Name of signatory _____
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) _____