



Laugh and Learn Pre-School

Head Lice Policy

General Welfare Requirements in accordance with the EYFS

Providers must take reasonable steps to keep children safe and well. Providers must promote the good health of children attending the setting

Policy Statement

Unfortunately, head lice are a regular fact of life for children and adults within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Whilst they may cause slight discomfort for the child, and in some cases embarrassment for adults, at Laugh and Learn Pre-School we do not attach any stigma or shame to those who are found to have an infestation. However, due to the high re-infection rate the following procedures will be followed once an infestation has been discovered:

Procedures

- ❖ Once it is known or suspected that your child has an infestation we will contact you to advise you and ask that you take them home to commence treatment before they can return to preschool. (whether you choose a medicated lotion or commence on a 'bug busting' system of wet combing we simply ask that you do not delay and take immediate action). Treatment can take a number of weeks to be affective to ensure that all the headlice and their eggs have been removed, however once treatment begins children can return to preschool.
- ❖ Whilst all information concerning any individuals will remain anonymous, we will inform the other parents of the presence of head lice within the premises by displaying the following discreet sign on the front door. This will encourage other parents to check their own children's hair, tie back long hair and hopefully reduce the rate of re-infection.



Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Owner/Manager and all Staff to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.

Some General Information about head lice

Head lice are tiny wingless insects that are grey-brown in colour. They are the size of a pinhead when they hatch and 3mm long (the size of a sesame seed) when fully grown. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim. They are spread by head-to-head contact and climb from the hair of an infected person to the hair of someone else.

Life cycle of head lice

A female head louse lays eggs by cementing them to hairs (often close to the root) where they will be kept warm by the scalp. The eggs are pinhead size and difficult to see. When the baby lice hatch 7 to 10 days later, the empty eggshells (nits) remain glued in place. Nits glisten white and become more noticeable as the growth of the hair carries them away from the scalp. Head lice feed by biting the scalp and sucking blood through it. They take 6 to 10 days to become fully grown. Once mature, a head louse can transfer from head-to-head. After mating, a female may start to lay eggs as early as the seventh day after she has hatched. So, to break the life cycle and stop head lice spreading, they need to be removed from the head before the sixth day after hatching.

How common are head lice?

Children are most commonly affected by head lice, although anyone with hair can catch them. Children are often affected by head lice because they tend to have more head-to-head contact while at Pre-School or during play. Head lice are most common in children between 4 to 11 years old.

Getting rid of head lice

Head lice can be effectively treated using medicated lotions or by wet combing, using a specially designed head lice comb. NHS websites offer further information about the treatments available and you can also ask your health visitor, GP or pharmacist if you are worried about head lice or you want more advice about how to treat them.

This policy links in with the following EYFS key themes and commitments:

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as Partners	3.4 The Wider Context	

This policy was written and effected by Sharon Bennett, Owner of Laugh and Learn Pre-School after discussion and review with staff and parents in the Autumn Term of 2023.

Signed: *Sharon Bennett*

Dated: February 2026 This policy will be reviewed in the Spring Term of 2028



Please check your children's hair today for any little visitors and we recommend you tie back any long hair.