
Headlice Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that we provide a consistent and sensible approach to head lice prevention within Springboard Nursery, so that:

- The roles and responsibilities of parents, children and health care professionals are clearly identified.
- A common message is delivered, which will allay the concern and confusion about head lice and their prevention within the nursery and among practitioners.

What are head lice?

Head lice is very common. The head louse is a very small whitish or grey-brown insect that ranges from the size of a pinhead to the size of a sesame seed; it feeds by biting on the scalp and sucking blood. The female louse lays between 5 and 8 grey, oval-shaped eggs each night and glues them onto the base of individual hairs. Head lice do not jump, and they do not fly, they walk from one hair to another which is why they are so common at school/ nursery when children often have their heads bowed down together and their hair is touching.

Signs of lice

Itchy head, rash on scalp and black specks that look like dust on their pillow (head lice droppings) are all signs of head lice.

Springboard Nursery does not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily, if head lice are found in a child's hair then it is not necessary for the child to be away from nursery. However, treatment at home is recommended immediately to prevent head lice spreading.

Springboard will notify you by telephone and request you purchase treatment and use asap to stop the headlice.

Links to legislation

NHS Choices, Head lice and Nits – please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> where you can find videos on how to comb your child's hair and gain advice on treatment and prevention.

There is guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings is available at –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/658507/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools.pdf.

This policy was implemented by Springboard Management Team: please note all policies and procedures will be reviewed on a yearly basis, unless there is a need to implement changes prior. Please note any updates and changes will be forwarded by email.

Date: 01.09.2023