

Head Lice Policy (Updated EYFS September 2025)

Policy Statement: At Butterflies Nursery, we are committed to maintaining a clean, healthy, and hygienic environment for all children in our care. This policy outlines our proactive approach to preventing and managing head lice infestations, safeguarding children's health and well-being.

Prevention:

- Promote regular head lice prevention education and awareness among staff, children, and parents.
- Provide regular information via newsletters, emails, and posters on effective prevention methods.

Identification:

- Immediately and discreetly inform parents or legal guardians if lice or nits are detected.
- Follow local health authority guidelines for accurate identification and diagnosis.

Confidentiality:

- Maintain strict confidentiality regarding any child's head lice infestation.
- Privately discuss infestations with parents, providing clear guidance on appropriate treatment methods.

Exclusion and Return:

- Temporarily exclude affected children from the setting until appropriate treatment has been completed.
- Allow children to return once treatment has been administered and confirmed as lice-free by the parents.

Parental Responsibility:

- Clearly communicate parental responsibilities for prompt and effective treatment of infestations.
- Provide recommended treatment information and available support resources.

Cleaning and Sanitization:

- Thoroughly clean and sanitize bedding, hats, hairbrushes, and personal items of affected children.
- Regularly maintain cleanliness within the childminding environment to minimize transmission risks.

Education and Awareness:

- Offer ongoing educational materials and resources to staff, parents, and children regarding head lice prevention.
- Encourage regular home head checks and prompt notification if lice are found.

Notification to Other Parents:

- Discreetly inform other parents if an infestation occurs, providing guidance on prevention and checks.
- Maintain sensitivity to ensure privacy and dignity are preserved.

Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes: This policy aligns with the EYFS 2025 requirements, emphasising proactive health and hygiene practices, respectful handling of sensitive issues, and clear communication with families to ensure the continued health, safety, and well-being of all children.

Review and Monitoring:

- This policy will be reviewed annually or more frequently if necessary, ensuring effectiveness and adherence to EYFS 2025 and local health guidelines.

- Feedback from staff, parents, and external agencies will be encouraged to continually refine our procedures.

Signed: Chrissie Day

Date: 2nd July, 2025