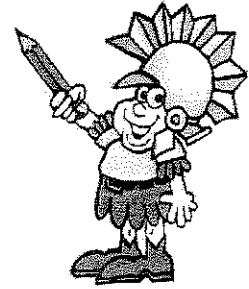


H.T. Smith Elementary School



Dear Parent,

A case of head lice has been reported to the office. Because head lice can be transmitted from one person to another, you will want to be alert for signs of either the insects or the nits (eggs) in your child's hair. The following information comes from the County Health Department and should be helpful to you.

HOW YOU GET IT: Head lice are usually transmitted through close personal contact with another infested individual or through use of shared combs, brushes and other grooming aids, through sharing of hats, coats or through co-mingling of these items at the homes of friends or at school or at other public places. Most parents have the impression that lice becomes established on persons who are unclean. In the case of head lice, this is **not true**. Frequent bathing will neither prevent nor eliminate an infestation once it has become established.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Head lice are elongated insects about this (-) long and are grayish-white with dark margins. Lice do not have wings therefore they cannot fly. They do not jump, but do move very quickly which makes them difficult to see, the diagnosis of head lice infestation is frequently made on the basis of finding nits. A nit is a louse egg, teardrop in shape and varies in color from yellowish-brown to white. Head lice attach each nit to a hair shaft with a water proof, cement like substance. Therefore, nits cannot be washed out or brushed out of the hair like dandruff or other debris that sometimes look like nits to the naked eye. Clusters of nits may be found in any section of the hair, but in mild infestations, a careful examination of the entire scalp may be necessary to detect them.

TREATMENT:

A. Individual treatment:

1. Remove all clothing and place individual in bathtub or shower stall and put clothing in a plastic bag.
2. Apply head lice treatment according to your physician's instructions or label instructions provided by the mfg.
3. Put on clean clothing after treatment.
4. Repeat treatment in 7-10 days. The 7-10 day interval corresponds to the incubation period of a louse egg.
5. All family members and close friends should be examined and treated if there is any evidence of infestation.
6. All nits must be removed from hair.
7. Office personnel must examine student's hair before returning to the classroom.

B. Decontamination of personal articles:

1. Wash all clothing and bed linens. Items that cannot be washed may be dry cleaned or left in a plastic bag and sealed for 10 days.
2. Combs, brushes and similar items can be disinfected by soaking them in one of the pediculicide liquids for one hour or in very hot water (150 F) for 10 minutes.
3. Articles that cannot be washed can be placed in the dryer for 20 minutes at the high setting or sprayed with a lice control spray.

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