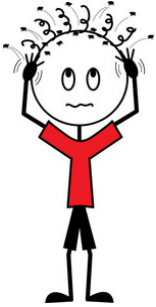


Head Lice

What Parents Need To Know



What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are small, wingless parasites that live on the scalp. They are very quick and attach to the hair.

What Are Nits?

Nits are whitish, oval egg sacs (about the size of a pin head) that are attached to the hair shaft by a cement-like substance that makes them difficult to remove.

Who Gets Head Lice?

ANYONE can get head lice! It is most common in preschool and elementary aged children.

How Are Head Lice Spread?

DIRECT contact with an infested person or INDIRECT contact with personal belongings of an infested person such as brushes, combs, clothing, bedding, upholstered furniture and car interiors.

What Are Symptoms of Head Lice?

- ITCHING AND SCRATCHING usually on the back of the scalp and neck and behind the ears.
- SORES ON THE HEAD caused by scratching.
- VISIBLE lice or nits.

What Is The Treatment For Head Lice?

- Use an FDA approved, over-the-counter treatment such as "Lice Ice", "Licefree! Gel", "Quit Nits", or "Lice MD". Products such as "Rid" or "Nix" are no longer effective treatments.
- Read the instructions and follow them carefully.
- Comb hair with a fine-tooth nit comb to remove lice and nits.
- Disinfect all combs before using them again.
- Check your child's hair daily.
- Retreat your child 8-10 days after initial treatment.
- Continue to check your child's head weekly for at least 4 weeks.

Does The Household Environment Need To Be Treated?

Routine cleaning of the child's environment, including washing recently used clothing, bedding and linens in hot water is recommended. Items that cannot be washed should be sealed in plastic bags for 2 weeks. Vacuum carpeting, upholstery and car seats.

Should All Family Members Be Treated?

All family members residing with an infested person should be examined for the presence of head lice.



Itchy! Itchy!

USD 508 HEAD LICE POLICY

Our school lice policy reflects mandates by Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The mandate, K.A.R. 28-1-6(10) states:

"Pediculosis (head lice): Each student infested with head lice shall be excluded from school, childcare facility, or family daycare home until treatment with an anti-parasitic drug is initiated."

At USD 508 the following procedure is followed:

- Teachers notify the school nurse if they see a child scratching their head, or if they see an insect or nit.
- The nurse checks the student. If live lice are found, the student is sent home for treatment.
- If nits only are found, the student is not sent home, but the parent is contacted so treatment can be done.

It is critical that combing and nit removal be done or the lice cycle continues. Parents must be vigilant in regularly checking their children's hair.

Children are excused for one school day only for head lice. Consecutive days and repeat occurrences are not excused.

If you have any questions regarding the head lice policy or treatment of head lice, please feel free to contact Sandy Clark RN, School Nurse, at clarks@usd508.org or by contacting your child's school.