

HEAD LICE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION PROCEDURE

PREAMBLE

Head lice are insects that live on the scalp and neck. Although head lice may be embarrassing and sometimes uncomfortable, they don't usually cause illness. However, they won't clear up on their own and need to be treated promptly.

Head lice spread by direct head-to-head contact. The louse crawls along the hair and simply crawls onto another person's head via a strand of hair. Nits or lice eggs cannot be spread from head-to-head. Lice eggs are laid on the hair shaft with a cement-like glue which keeps them securely on the hair until the bug hatches from the egg.

Lice spreads easily at schools because young children typically have close contact with one another either with desks set side-by-side or during normal play and school activities. Though head lice do not hop, jump, or fly, they do crawl very quickly.

A secondary way of contracting lice is through an object which could have a live bug on it. Items like hats, hairbrushes and hair accessories should not be shared.

There are a few methods of prevention that might reduce the risk of children contracting lice

- Keep long hair tied up in ponytails or even better, braids or a bun
- Use a little hairspray to keep stray hairs contained
- Use tea tree oil either by adding a few drops to your regular shampoo, or by making a spritz by adding a few drops to water in a spray bottle

Reducing the incidence of head lice necessitates a united effort between home and college.

PROCEDURE

1. Parents are to inform the class teacher as soon as possible, if head lice or nits have been found on their child.
2. In the event of head lice or nits being discovered in class, the class teacher is to notify all parents via email and request they check their child for lice or nits and treat as necessary.
3. Parents are then requested to reply, indicating:
 - a. Notification has been received
 - b. All family members have been checked
 - c. Appropriate treatments have been applied if necessary
4. If head lice are noticeable on a child, the parent will be phoned and asked to collect their child from school. The child should not return to school until the infestation has been successfully treated.