

**PEDICULOSIS POLICY**

When a child is discovered to have pediculosis, all children in the group should be examined to determine if they are also harboring the parasites. The regular classroom teacher who suspects that a child may be carrying the head louse should avoid causing embarrassment to the child while arranging for the nurse to inspect the child in the Nurse's office. IF the Nurse determines that the child has pediculosis, the nurse will avoid embarrassing the child by returning the child to the classroom, contact the child's parent/guardian. The child will be called from the room when the parent comes to dismiss the student. Explain to the adult the procedure for cleansing the head and household belongings. (See Appendix V)

The child must remain at home until all evidence of lice and nits are absent from head and body.

The child will be inspected by the school nurse before readmission to school unless the student has a physician's certification stating that the student is free from lice and nits.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

Your child was recently assessed and it was determined that she/he has head lice. The information below will answer many questions you might have and will help you resolve this matter.

**PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS**

1. Your child may not re-enter school without being checked by the school nurse. You must accompany your child to school for admission and re-examination.

What are head Lice and how do you know if your child has them? Head lice are very small, light- brown insects (less than one-eighth inch long) which live only in people's hair, especially the back of the scalp, above the neck, and behind the ears, They do not jump or fly; they do not live on animals. They live by biting the scalp or skin and drinking blood. The bites cause intense itching, Lice are not dangerous, but they make a person very uncomfortable.

Lice live for 20 to 30 days and lay about six eggs a day. These eggs, called nits, are very small about the size of a. fleck of dandruff but shaped like teardrops or pears, are pearl gray in color and are glued onto single strands of hair, Sometimes they can best be seen by looking at a few strands of hair (not like dandruff which can be brushed out easily).

Usually, you will not see lice, only the eggs. You will need to look carefully. Spend about ten minutes and start with the hair on the back of the head.

How does a person get head lice? Head lice are very easy to catch, both for children and adults. Having lice is not having a dirty house. The lice can crawl from head to head or from personal items like a hat or pillow to a head. The eggs or nits may be in combs, brushes, hats, scarves, ect—and they may be passed on and then hatched on the next person. Head lice spread only from person to person: you cannot catch them from grass, trees, or animals.

If your child does have head lice, you need to check everyone's head in your household carefully. Anyone else with nits must definitely be treated.

How do you get rid of head lice?

1. There are several medicines, used as shampoos, available to treat head lice. Kwell Shampoo, Prioderm Lotion, PEC Shampoo RIX, and A-200 Prynate are available over the counter.

All of these products must be used carefully, and all safety guidelines must be observed. It is especially important to consult a physician before treating (1) infants, (2) pregnant or nursing women, or (3) anyone with extensive cuts or scratches on the head or neck.

Although all these products will kill lice (NONE WILL KILL 100 PERCENT OF THE NITS). Nit removal may be time-consuming and difficult due to their firm cementing onto hair. A solution of vinegar and water may help to dissolve the "cement" and make removal easier. There are special, fine-tooth combs to aid a nit removal: a regular comb will not remove them. A daily nit check for the next ten days is available: if you see nits (less than one-fourth inch from the scalp) or newly hatched lice, it may be necessary to repeat the treatment. Too many treatments can be dangerous: follow instructions carefully.

2. Clean all personal items, giving special attention to the following:

- a. Clothes -- especially coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, pajamas, robes, nightgowns.
- b. Bedding — sheets, pillowcases, blankets, pillows.
- c. Toiletries and Towels — combs, brushes, curlers, barrettes, ect.
- d. Furry or Cloth Toys - especially those that have been near the child's head or in The child's bed

### **WAYS TO CLEAN PERSONAL ITEMS**

Choose one of the following methods for each item to be cleaned:

- a. Wash in hot water in washing machine: dry as usual.
- b. Put in hot dryer for 20 minutes
- c. Dry clean
- d. Store in sealed plastic bags for 30 days (any eggs present will hatch, but will die for lack of food, i.e., blood, any lice will also die). This method is especially good for blankets, pillows, toys, and clothing that are hard to wash.
- e. Boil combs, brushes, curlers, etc., for 10 minutes.
- f. Soak in 2 percent Lysol and water or a bleach solution, (1/4 cup bleach to one gallon water) for one hour.

3- Careful vacuuming of carpets, floors, and furniture is all that is necessary for the rest of house. Insecticide sprays are not recommended; they can be harmful to people and animals.

When can my child go back to school? your child may go back as soon as the shampoo has been given, you have removed all nits from your child's hair, and you have cleansed or stored personal items. You must be checked in, by the School Nurse. Please accompany your child to school for re-admission.

Keep checking your child's hair for new nits for at least two weeks.