

Head Lice Notification

On _____ a child from this child care program was diagnosed with **head lice**.

What is it? Lice are small insects that lay eggs on the shaft of a human hair. These eggs hatch in a 5 to 7 day cycle. They are spread by close physical contact with clothing, bedding, brushes, or combs of an infested person. Children do not need to be excluded from care for having head lice.

What to watch for?

- Itching to the scalp, especially along the base of the neck, behind the ears, and the crown of the scalp.
- Lice or nits, eggs, attached to the hair shaft closest to the scalp.

How to prevent it?

- Prompt treatment can help prevent the spread of lice to others.
- Teach children not to share clothes, bedding, brushes, combs, or hats of others.

What can we do at home?

- Do this every day for 14 days!
 - ❖ Cleanse the hair, rinse, and apply hair conditioner to make the hair slippery. Comb the entire length of the hair with a fine toothed metal comb. Wipe the comb between each stroke with a paper towel to remove and lice or nits.
- Do this on Days 1 and 14!
 - ❖ Use a medicated over-the-counter shampoo. Read and follow all directions.
- Treat all infected family members at the same time.
- Soak combs and brushes for an hour in a Lysol solution or for 10 minutes in a pan of very hot water on the stove.
- Wash all clothing, towels, and bedding and other items that may be infested
- Items that cannot be washed should be placed in a closed bag for two weeks
- Vacuum all carpets, furniture, car seats, and head rests. Throw away the vacuum bag.