



Dear Parents;

If you suspect your child might have head lice (itching is the main sign) and if you see any nits (lice eggs) which are yellowish/white oval specks attached to the hair shaft near the scalp, contact your physician, notify the school and follow the guidelines below. You can notify DCS Montessori by calling 720-531-3311 or email [health@dcsmontessori.org](mailto:health@dcsmontessori.org) (please do so right away.)

- Perform regular head checks of family members using a bright light and fine-tooth comb. A comprehensive, how-to video can be found at [www.aad.org/dermatology-a-to-z/diseases-and-treatments/e---h/head-lice/diagnosis-treatment](http://www.aad.org/dermatology-a-to-z/diseases-and-treatments/e---h/head-lice/diagnosis-treatment) Sources: *aap.org*; *cdc.gov*; *add.org*
- Contact your child's health care provider or a pharmacist to verify his or her preferred shampoo or treatment.
- Administer treatment following label directions on package.
- After treatment, comb your child's hair with a fine tooth comb (usually in package) to remove dead nits (oval white eggs). It is important to be thorough and remove all nits!
- **Your child may return to school following the first treatment.**
- Inspect child's hair daily for one week for new nits. Repeating the treatment within one week is usually recommended because eggs (nits) hatch into lice in one week and the lice continue to multiply.
- Clothing, linens, and toys should be washed in hot water and dried at a high heat. If they can't be washed they should be vacuumed and sealed in a bag for 2 weeks. Upholstery in home and car, carpets and mattresses need to be vacuumed and the vacuum bag discarded. Brushes and combs should be soaked in very hot water.
- Instruct child not to wear playmates' clothes, hats, or outer garments or use someone else's comb or hairbrush.
- Household pets are not a source of head lice. We have our own species of human lice that do not live on animals.
- **"Head lice usually survive for less than one day away from the scalp, and their eggs cannot hatch at temperatures lower than those near the scalp."** Reference Meiking, TA *Infestions. Curr Probl Dermatol. 1999; 11: 73-120 (American Academy of Pediatrics).*
- **Additional information:**
  - [CDC Information on Lice](#)
  - [National Association of School Nurses Parent Information on Lice](#)
  - [America Academy of Pediatrics Parent Information on Lice](#)

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