

Procedures for students with head lice at HeadStart International School

If a child has head lice, the following procedures need to be carried out.

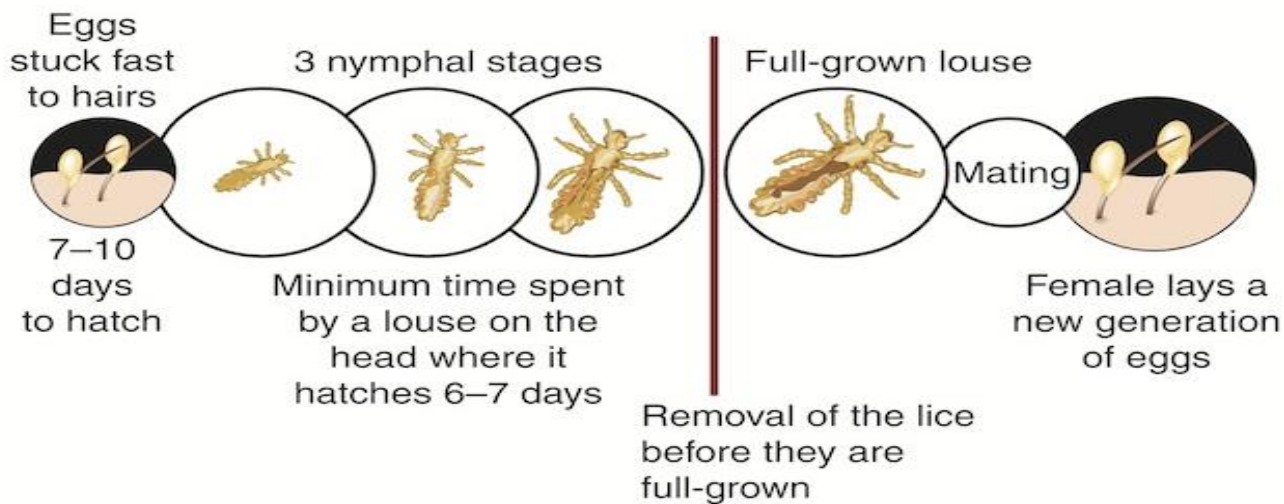
- Send the student to be checked by the school nurse
- The parents will be contacted by the nurse on duty
- The student will be sent home for treatment
- Students will need to be treated at home.
- The school will not be responsible for treating any students with head lice.
- Treatment can take up to 3 – 4 days.
- Pupils returning to school need to be checked by the school nurse. If the student is given the all clear, they can return to class.
- If the student still has signs of head lice, (live lice and eggs) they will be asked to return home and complete another course of treatment.
- Parents need to sign a 'treatment' slip, to ensure their child has been treated and is given the all clear to return to class.
- If a case of head lice has been found in school, the school nurse will check all students and staff within that class; as well as siblings in other classes.

Head Lice – Information to parents / A parent's guide

- What are headlice?

Head lice are small insects that live in people's hair and feed on their blood. Lice glue their eggs, also called nits, to hair. Head lice die quickly (within two days) without feeding so they cannot live very long away from your child's head. Nits take six to nine days to hatch, and seven or more days for the lice to become egg-laying adults.

- Development of headlice



- **How do children get headlice?**

Children can give head lice to other children from head-to-head contact and sometimes when they share combs, hats / sunhats, clothing, helmets, headphones, or other personal items.

Head lice are a problem in homes and schools if not treated correctly.

- **How do I know if my child has it?**

The only way to know if your child has head lice is to look through their hair. Adults and nymphs maybe more difficult to see than the eggs, which are usually found ¼ inch from the scalp, usually at the back of the head.

Don't confuse dirt or dandruff with nits. Nits stick on the hair.

How can I get rid of head lice?

If a child has head lice it is not usually enough just to remove the lice. There are a number of treatments available from pharmacies. Treatments can vary and can take between 4 – 7 days. Usually a second treatment is required to ensure all lice and eggs (nits) have been removed.

Everyone in the family should be treated at the same time.

Lice can live 1 – 2 days off a head, which means that they can be present on a child's pillow or on bedding. All bedding should be washed on a hot wash cycle.

Nit combing and removal

If your child has head lice, the best way to get rid of the lice is to comb their hair every day with a nit comb for two weeks. Nit combs should be metal (not plastic) and have long teeth. Several brands of nit combs are available at your local pharmacy.

The best way to remove nits is to part the hair into small sections. Comb from the roots to the tip of the hair. As each section is combed, fasten the hair to the scalp to keep track of what has been combed. If lice are found, wipe or rinse the comb before using again. It is easier to comb wet hair. Any nits that cannot be combed out must be removed. You can do this by picking them out with fingernails or by cutting a single hair between the scalp and where nits are attached. Check all family members' hair completely. Common places to find lice are close to the scalp, the neckline, and behind the ears.

What if the treatment did not work?

- The directions on the treatment product were not followed closely enough.
- The nits were not completely removed.
- The child got head lice again from a playmate.
- Lice may not die right away. The problem was not lice.
- It is extremely important that you wash your child's bedding, clothing and regularly worn caps in very hot water.
- Boil combs, brushes, hair bands, and sunhats in water for five minutes, or soak them in disinfectant (Dettol) or left over headlice treatment for one hour.
- Sweep and mop all floors with disinfectant.

More information can be found https://beta.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice?WT.mc_id=organic_split