



# "LOUSY" TRUTHS ABOUT DEALING WITH HEAD LICE



## LICE FACTS

- ⇒ Head lice do not cause infection or disease.
- ⇒ Lice do not hop, jump, or fly; they move from head to head through direct contact.
- ⇒ You can't get head lice from pets.
- ⇒ When found, head lice have been on the head for at least a month.
- ⇒ Mass screening has not been shown effective in decreasing the cases of head lice.
- ⇒ The most effective screening occurs when parents check their children at home.
- ⇒ Head lice are not a sign of uncleanliness; they love clean hair.
- ⇒ Lice rarely survive more than 48 hours off of the scalp.



## According to the Experts.....

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses:

- ⇒ Students with head lice do not need to be sent home early.
- ⇒ The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to students, families, and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- ⇒ Classroom or school wide screening is unnecessary and should be discouraged.
- ⇒ The most effective screening happens when parents check their children at home, treat if any are found, and make efforts to remove the eggs

## What's a Parent to Do: Identifying and Eliminating Head Lice



### On Your Child

- ⇒ Watch for signs of head lice: itching or scratching, especially behind the ears or neck.
- ⇒ Check children for lice at least once a week.
- ⇒ Look for live (crawling) lice.
- ⇒ headbands, etc.

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## What's a Parent to Do: Identifying and Eliminating Head Lice

- ⇒ If you find live lice on one family member, all family members should be checked for live lice.
- ⇒ Treat **only** those found to have live lice with a shampoo registered by the FDA to treat lice (pediculocide).
- ⇒ Read the label carefully and **follow the directions exactly**.
- ⇒ Try to remove all nits (eggs), using a fine toothed comb.
- ⇒ Continue to check for lice daily for 2-3 weeks after treatment.
- ⇒ Teach your children the importance of avoiding head to head contact with others and not sharing hats, combs, brushes, headbands, etc.

### In Your Home....

- ⇒ Wash potentially infested bedding and other washable items, in hot water and dry them on the hot setting. Stuffed toys, bedding, and other potentially infested items that cannot be laundered should be dry cleaned or closed in plastic bags for at least 2 days.
- ⇒ Hair brushes and combs should be washed in hot, soapy water.
- ⇒ Vacuum floors, carpets, mattresses and furniture. **Chemical treatment of these areas is not necessary.**



**Working Together, We Can  
Send Lice Packing!**