

Keep on top of head lice



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

An itchy head—this may start three months after the initial three months after the initial infection of head lice.

They are parasite insects between 1mm and 3mm long that live on the head and feed on human blood. Many people mistakenly call them nits, but nits are the hatched or dead eggs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

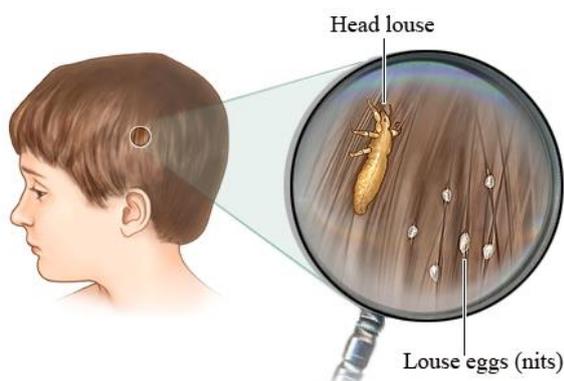
Not every child has itching. Check your child's head once a week. Lice look like dandruff, but stick to the hair. Look for live insects. Use silicone based treatments (such as Hedrin Treat and Go Mousse), which coats the lice so they die. Lice have developed resistance to previous pesticide treatments. You can comb out lice from wet hair using a special fine-toothed comb and normal hair conditioner. However, clinical trials have shown that this to be only 57% effective and it is time consuming.

WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Sometimes an allergic reaction to bites can cause dermatitis and infection. If your child has intense itching (and the skin is bleeding) then see your GP.

DO THEY NEED TO BE OFF SCHOOL?

No. Children can return to school immediately after treatment—however, you MUST treat them. Under Public Health Law it is a requirement that they be treated.



In extreme cases of neglect, Social Services might get involved.