

Treatment of Head Lice

If eggs (grey / brown and oval) or nits (white empty eggs) are observed they may not be readily removed by combing and may require removal by hand.

- **Grasp the shell between the thumb and forefinger and draw it along the hair strand.**
- **Continue to comb through the hair until the whole head has been combed.**

The conditioner is very helpful because it makes the hair too slippery for a louse to run along and so it cannot easily escape the nit comb.

- **When the combing is completed, rinse the hair with clear water.**
- **It is then necessary to repeat this procedure every 3-4 days for at least three weeks, so that any lice emerging from the eggs can be removed along with lice that may have escaped the first couple of sessions.**

Chemical treatments can be purchased over the counter, however, it is known that some head lice are resistant to these and, therefore, no chemical

preparation is one hundred per cent effective.

NEVER USE CHEMICAL TREATMENTS TO PREVENT HEAD LICE INFECTIONS

The old-fashioned system of mass head checks in school is not effective in detecting head lice.

If all children and adults put conditioner on their hair once a week and combed it out with a fine toothcomb, head lice would become a minor problem. Newly invaded lice would be detected and removed before they had time to lay eggs.

PARENTS ARE IN THE “FRONT LINE” OF HEAD LOUSE DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT.



The Community's Problem



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Some Facts about Head Lice

- The head louse only affects humans and cannot be passed onto or caught from animals
- Head lice are tiny, wingless insects that cannot jump or fly
- They are colourless when first hatched and take on the colour of the hair after feeding on blood from the scalp several times a day
- The louse grips on to the hair with six claws

Detection of Head Lice

The Following should be done weekly.

- Apply conditioner to dry hair, or wash the hair and rinse as normal then rub conditioner in.
- With a nit comb, carefully comb the hair, section by section, right from the scalp to the end of the hair

- Observe the comb for lice after each stroke and wipe it clean with a tissue

Have you found Head Lice?

There is nothing shameful about finding head lice...

BUT IT IS SHAMEFUL TO DO NOTHING ABOUT IT

Head Lice are spread by direct head to head contact with an infected person. Having lice is like other infections, you catch them from someone else, who could be a friend or relative, with clean hair.

It is important for all family members to be checked every week.

