

PARENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NOTIFICATION

Head Lice (Pediculosis Capitis)

Head lice are parasitic wingless insects. They live on people's heads and feed on their blood. An adult is called a louse and is about the size of a sesame seed. The eggs, called nits, are even smaller – almost like a dandruff flake. Lice and nits are easiest to detect at the neckline and behind the ears. Head lice are extremely contagious. Close contact or sharing personal belongings, such as hats or hairbrushes, puts people at risk.

Please check your child/children weekly for the presence of live bugs/nits. If you find that your child has head lice, please notify the preschool and begin treatment.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Intense itching of scalp
- Nits attached to hair shaft (not easily removed)
- Live, red/brown bugs in the hair
- Red bite marks on the scalp or neck
- Sores from scratching

Incubation period:

Six to ten days from laying to hatching of eggs. Lice can reproduce 2-3 weeks after hatching.

Contagious Period:

Head lice are contagious until treated with a chemical/natural remedy that kills lice, and all nits have been killed or removed.

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