

# Crown Point Community School Corporation

## Head Lice

This condition produces a high level of anxiety but is not associated with any serious, medical complications. Lice are not a health hazard or a sign of poor hygiene. They are not responsible for the spread of any disease. This lice information letter will acquaint you with the nature of this infestation and what should be done to get rid of it.

**How You Get It:** Head lice are usually transmitted through direct head-to-head contact with a person with a live infestation. For example, this can occur through play at home or in school, slumber parties, sports activities, camera “selfies”, etc. Indirect spread through contact with personal belongings of an infested individual (combs, brushes, hats, towels, pillowcases) is possible but much less likely to occur. Lice do not hop, jump or fly. Lice can only crawl. Pets do not play a role in the transmission of human lice.

**What Too Look For:** The main symptom of head lice infestation is itching. Adult lice are about the size of a sesame seed and are tan to grayish-white in color. They live close to the scalp and are most visible behind the ears or at the base of the neckline. Eggs or nits are teardrop in shape, very tiny, and vary in color but are usually the same as the hair color. They attach to the hair shaft with a glue-like substance, within approximately 4mm of the scalp. They cannot be washed or brushed out of the hair like dandruff or other debris.

**Treatment:** Treatment is directed at the infested individual (to be found to have live lice) and his or her personal articles, e.g. combs, brushes, hats, towels, pillowcases.

1. Check household, family members for lice, and if infested, should be treated at the same time as the child. (Never initiate treatment unless there are live lice.)
2. Use an effective, head lice treatment or medicine as directed on the package insert. Removal of nits with a special comb is recommended to keep them from possible hatching in another 7-12 days.
3. \*\*\*Do not use a combination shampoo/conditioner or conditioner before using lice medicine. Do no re-wash hair for 1-2 days after the lice medicine is removed.
4. Brushes and combs should be thoroughly cleaned and boiled. Wash clothes, bed linens, and towels in hot, soapy water. (Lice depend on human blood to live and can only survive up to 2 days away from the scalp.)
5. See a doctor if live lice are seen more than 24 hours after treatment as this suggests treatment failure. A different medication may be necessary.

**Return to School:** Your child may return to school after he or she has been treated and no live lice are seen. The treatment verification form sent home with your child should be completed and signed by the parent. The child cannot ride the bus and should be brought to school by an

adult. The student will be checked by the school nurse before being allowed to return to the classroom and bus. Please call the school nurse with any questions regarding this issue.

**Treatments approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics:**

Nix (Permethrin 1%)

RID

Benzyl Alcohol 5%; Natroba; Sklice; Malathion (prescribed)

Remember to check the person's hair every 2-3 days for 2-3 weeks to make sure all of the lice and nits have been removed. If crawling lice are seen after a full course of treatment, contact your health provider.