

Student Services/Special Education
OCEANSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2080 Mission Avenue Oceanside CA 92058 (760) 966-7802

Dear Parent/Guardian:

From time to time, children in our school are found to have head lice and/or nits (Pediculosis). Since head lice can pass easily from one person to another, we thought you would like to know that this is now occurring in your child's classroom.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HEAD LICE:

Head lice cannot jump or fly but are spread from one person to another chiefly by personal contact or the sharing of such items as brushes, combs, hats, scarves, and coats.

Head lice are no larger than the head of a pin. In fact, if you could examine a louse under a magnifying glass, it would look somewhat like a tiny ant.

Head lice are usually found on the hairs of the head, behind the ears, and back of the neck.

Head lice lay oval white eggs—not to be confused with dandruff which is flaky or droplet of hairspray. The eggs are attached to the base of a strand of hair close to the scalp.

In order to live, head lice derive nourishment from human blood which they suck from their hosts. Lice can live, however upwards to 2-3 days off the human body.

The first sign of lice is usually intense itching. The lice and/or eggs may be seen and bite marks often appear. Skin irritation and/or infection may occur as a result of repeated scratching; if this happens, you should see your physician.

Lice infestation should also be treated in the home. A thorough cleaning of the home including bedding, furniture, rugs, and clothing is essential.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT LICE:

At the first sign, seek assistance from your doctor, the school nurse, or go to your local drugstore and ask for a special shampoo designed to treat this problem (i.e., Cuprex Rid). It is recommended that all family members except infants be treated with the shampoo.

Sincerely,

School Nurse

EN ESPAÑOL AL REVERSO