

Head Lice in Schools

- Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have **not** been shown to spread disease.
- Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.
- Transmission of head lice usually occurs through direct contact with the **head** of another infested individual.
- Lice cannot hop or fly; they crawl. Nits (eggs) are attached to the hair shaft with a glue-like substance and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. In-school transmission is considered to be rare.
- When live head lice are found on a student, the parent/guardian will be notified by phone. The student will remain in the classroom, and a letter with treatment information will be sent home with the student at the end of the day.
- When nits (eggs) are found on a student, the student will remain in the classroom, and a letter with treatment information will be sent home with the student at the end of the day.
- Parents are asked to treat for head lice and remove all nits (eggs) before sending their child back to school. Most lice treatments do not kill nits, so it is important to remove all nits to prevent them from hatching into live lice.
- Treatment for lice is **not** recommended unless the child actually has lice. Parents are encouraged to make checking for head lice a part of routine hygiene, as lice is present in the community at all times of the year.
- Lice cases are tracked, and letters to parents notifying them of lice in the classroom will be sent out on an as-needed basis as determined by the school nurse and administrator.
- ECASD procedures for head lice management are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the ECASD Medical Advisor.

Contact your child's school nurse with questions.