

FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE:

- Head lice affect several million school children in the U.S. every year and are more prevalent among children than all other childhood communicable diseases combined.
- Head lice infestation is not a sign of uncleanliness.
- Head lice are transmitted from one person to another, or by contact with articles that have been used by an infested person such as combs, brushes, hats, bedding, towels and upholstery.
- The louse is 2 - 3 mm long, has a slender tapering body, three pairs of legs with delicate hooks and is grayish in color.
- Lice are found mainly behind the ear, on the nape of the neck and at the crown of the head.
- Lice move very quickly, they cannot fly or jump.
- Lice can survive only 1 - 2 days away from the scalp.
- Head lice cannot survive on family pets, they need a human host.
- Nits are whitish, oval shaped and measure 0.3 mm by 0.8 mm.
- A female louse reaches maturity at 16 to 18 days and begins laying eggs at a rate of 6 to 10 every 24 hours for a total of about 300 eggs in her lifetime of around 45 days.
- The adult female louse attaches her nits to the hair shaft about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the scalp with a sticky substance that cements them in place.