

TO: All KOCO Families

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SUBJECT: Head Lice

Head lice are an unpleasant but very common condition. Proper treatment, communication, and correct information will insure that if your child contracts head lice it can be dealt with in an efficient manner.

- Head lice prefer clean, healthy heads. Lice are not an indication of cleanliness or poor hygiene.
- Children with head lice may demonstrate signs of excessive scratching.
- Head lice is spread from hair to hair contact. Head lice do not jump and prefer to live on or near the scalp. Lice are infrequently transferred by combs, hats, hair accessories, etc.
- Lice can live briefly off a host, usually not more than 24 hours.
- Lice cannot be transferred to pets.
- Children should only be treated with pediculicides (treated shampoos) if they actually have head lice. Pediculicides should never be over used.
- Fumigating your home or school is more harmful to the children than the lice.
- There is no proven repellent for head lice.
- Suffocating agents (olive oil/mayonnaise) do not always kill live louse.
- Other than pediculicides, mechanical removal of nits is the preferred method for removal.

It is critical that the administrator on duty be notified immediately if your child has contracted head lice.

The best rule to remember is to use common sense when dealing with head lice. Head lice are a treatable condition and represent an opportunity for us to model for our children responsible, cooperative behavior.

Attached is an article from the Center for Disease Control and KOCO's updated head lice policy. Please review and feel free to contact either one of us with questions.

Thank you.

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