

McKinney ISD has recently reviewed the lice policy used in our schools. The MISD school Health Advisory, and Safe and Drug Free Schools committee met and it was decided that MISD would **not** have a “No-Nit” policy based on the following information.

The Department of State Health Services does not recommend a “No Nit” policy. Routine screening for head lice is not recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics or the National Association of School Nurses. Head lice has been around since prehistoric ages. It represents more of a social issue rather than a health threat. A panel of scientists and public health professionals convened at Harvard School of Public Health to discuss issues related to head lice. In regards to “no-nit” policies the report states “there is little evidence that exclusion from school (for nits) reduces the transmission of lice...Therefore, confirmation of a (lice) louse infestation does not warrant exclusion, but does require treatment.

The ‘no-nit’ policy is not in the best interest of the child, the family, or the school.” Ultimately, school staff and parents must work together to address the inevitable incidence of head lice among students. As with any persistent disease, education, empathy, and patience are part of any effective, long term plan. The over-emphasis can lead to unproductive use of time by school staff and parents, missed classes, unnecessary absences and parents missing work.

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Lice Policy and Information

**#1 Duvall Street
McKinney, TX 75069**

What are Head Lice?

Head lice are small wingless insects about the size of a small seed. Head lice infest human hair. They are grayish in color but may be red/brown when feeding. Lice can live for 20-30 days.

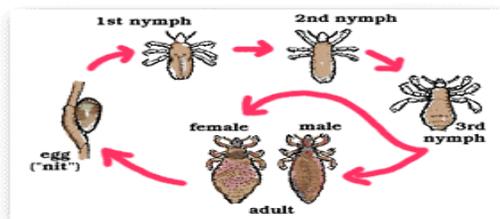
What are Nits?

Nits are the eggs of adult lice. A female louse will lay as many as 300 eggs in her lifetime. They are tiny white specks that look like dandruff, but cannot be brushed, washed or blown off. They are often found behind the ears, nape of the neck and the top/crown of the head. These nits hatch in 7-10 days.

What are the symptoms of lice?

Lice are hard to see. Itching on the head along with scratch marks that may look like a rash are a sign of head lice. Nits look like dandruff, but can not be easily removed. They must be removed with a special lice comb or pulled off using your fingernails.

Which Came First... the Itchin' or the Egg?



(The Life-Cycle of the Head Louse)

How are lice spread?

Lice **do not** fly or jump, but they **do** crawl. Head lice are spread by sharing personal items such as, hats, combs, brushes, head-gear, pillows and coats. Head lice are also spread through prolonged personal contact.

How can you prevent head lice?

Teach your child/children not to share coats, hats, combs, brushes, or headgear. Check your child weekly if there has been head lice at school or if friends have head lice. It is also important to notify the school nurse and parents of other children your child has been in contact with if your child has head lice. Remember anyone can get head lice.

How do I treat head lice ?

Shampoo the hair with a lice shampoo. Remove all visible nits. Lice shampoos kill the lice, but not the eggs. It is very important to remove all visible nits with a metal tooth lice comb or your fingernails so that these nits don't hatch. Follow up by shampooing the hair with a lice shampoo again in 7 days. Clean all household items by vacuuming or washing with hot soapy water. Check other family members and treat if head lice or nits are found.

How does MISD prevent the spread of head lice at school?

1. Information on head lice and prevention is available from the school nurse.
2. The school nurse instructs the children on how to prevent the spread of head lice.
3. Parents are called if their child is found to have lice or nits and asked to come pick the child up from school.
4. The child may be kept in the clinic or classroom whichever is less likely to, in the nurses judgment, single out the particular student. The parent is given instructions on how to treat head lice and a readmission criteria list.
5. The child will be checked upon readmission and signs of treatment and nit removal must be present.
6. All children in the classroom will be checked and if three or more children are found to have head lice in that classroom, a note will be sent to all parents in that particular classroom.
7. The classroom where lice is found will be rechecked in 10-14 days. If lice is found the above steps will be reinitiated.
8. If a case of head lice goes untreated the nurse will involve the campus administration in a meeting with the parents.