



Santa Fe Christian Schools

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Dear Parents:

The problem of head lice/nits is ongoing and can be difficult to control at home and at school. Even though lice are not a threat to health, they are a frustrating nuisance and are easily spread to others if students are not careful.

In order to prevent outbreaks of head lice at school, when a student has been identified as having live lice or nits, parents or guardians will be contacted immediately for treatment. Once the treatment has been initiated and all nits have been removed from the hair, students may return to school. Students will be readmitted to school when no lice are found in their hair.

When lice are found on one member of the family, all persons in the home, as well as playmates and other intimate contacts, should be examined. Only those persons with live lice should be treated. Obtain a specially formulated lice shampoo (pediculicide) from the store.

- **Apply** the shampoo exactly according to package directions.
- **Remove** all nits (eggs) from hair shafts while hair is damp.
- **Inspect** hair *daily* for 7 – 10 days. Nits can be difficult to remove and it may take several sessions to remove all of them.
- **Re-treat** your child 7-10 days after the initial treatment to kill any new lice that have hatched from any missed nits.
- **Examine** your child's hair for lice and nits after second treatment. If adult lice or nits are found, retreat according to instructions above.

Note: No lice treatment is 100% effective unless all nits are removed. If live adult lice continue to be found after this treatment course, change the brand of pediculicidal shampoo that you are using, or get a prescription from your pediatrician.

Your child will need to be screened by the school nurse for live lice prior to returning to school and they will be rechecked 7-10 days later to ensure that they remain nit-free. If your child has nits 10 days after treatment, they will be sent home again to repeat the treatment.

Household Precautions

Launder clothing, bed linens, and towels in **hot** water with detergent or dry clean. Place items such as stuffed animals that cannot be washed in a secured plastic bag for two weeks. In most cases, ordinary household cleaning and vacuuming will remove nits and lice that may have fallen on rugs and furniture. Remember to vacuum your car upholstery. Lice sprays such as R&C Spray are only considered necessary when there is a heavy infestation and household items are difficult to clean or vacuum (i.e. upholstered furniture with deep folds). Clean combs and brushes carefully by washing in hot water with soap. **To prevent the spread of lice, never share combs, brushes, hats, coats, towels, etc.**

Please report any new cases to the school so we can evaluate whether the infestation is spreading. If you need further information, please contact me at (858) 755-8900 ext. 1010 or sdewoody@sfcs.net.

Sincerely,

Sandra DeWoody, R.N.
SFCS Health Office