

## Ashe County Schools

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### PEDIULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

#### PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT WITH SUSPICION OF LICE

1. Teacher is to refer the student in question to the school nurse (if available) or to the teacher assistant assigned to health room for evaluation.
2. If the school nurse or the teacher assistant is not available, refer to the principal for advice.
3. The school nurse or teacher assistant must provide privacy for student with explanation of why he/she has been sent to the health room.
4. The person performing the evaluation must provide direct lighting to be assured of proper visualization of lice/nits.
5. Examine the hair carefully separating hair in small sections, for presence of crawling lice. Observe for movement on or near the scalp, especially at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.
6. **Examine the hair carefully for eggs (nits). Active infestations can be defined as the presence of live lice.** Nits that are found beyond ¼" of the scalp have more than likely hatched, or are no longer viable. Normally, a live nit is very difficult to pull off the hair shaft.
7. Children found with live head lice should remain in class, but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others. The school nurse should contact the parents to discuss treating the child at the conclusion of the school day (Frankowski & Bocchini, 2010.) Students with nits only should not be excluded from school (American School Health Association, 2005, Frankowski & Bocchini, 2010, Pollack, Kiszewski & Spielman 2000), although further monitoring for sign of re-infestation is appropriate.
8. Provide parent/guardian with written/oral instructions for treatment. Use the **LICE TREATMENT** information form (see School Nurse Form Book). It contains instructions for Hair Care, Household Care. Letter and form to be completed and signed by parent.  
**In some cases over the counter treatments fail to eliminate live lice. Your child's physician may then order a prescription for the treatment of head lice.**
9. The school nurse or teacher assistant is to document student evaluation/re-evaluation of lice. The school nurse or teacher assistant is to use proper hand washing before and after inspection of hair.
10. Inspection of all students' in a classroom is not recommended or necessary (Andresen & McCarthy, 2009).