

Frequently Asked Questions About Lice.

How did my child get lice?

Most often from another child, BUT lice do not jump or fly. It takes direct **head to head** contact for lice to spread. Lice are rarely spread from inanimate objects such as toys, hats, and chairs. Lice need warmth and human blood. Lice do not come from pets.

My child did not have lice when they went to school this morning, but he/she came home with lice, so now what?

It generally takes 4 to 6 weeks to show symptoms of a first-time lice infestation. This means your child had lice this morning when they left for school; you just did not know it. So take a deep breath and remember lice are not a sign of being dirty. Lice do not spread disease. Having lice is a nuisance, and yes, it is icky!

So, call your doctor and ask about lice products. Then follow the directions closely. Lice shampoos have strong medication in them and must be used correctly.

- Ask the school nurse to check your child's close friends and playmates, children who your child spends a great deal of physical time with. This means you will have to share names. This is not a time to find someone to blame. Check your other children and yourself as well. Odds are you and your other children do not have lice, but look anyway.
- Vacuum your home especially the areas your child plays in. Wash his or her bedding and put the stuffed animals in the dryer on hot if possible. These actions are precautionary but may help. **It is not necessary or advised to spray the various lice sprays found in stores.**
- Remove the nits (lice eggs) from your child's hair. Instructions will be included in the lice shampoo. This helps you know if you eliminated the problem.
- Send your child to school. There is no reason for any child to miss school for lice.
- Use information found on the web wisely. There is a lot of misinformation out there. Here is a web site with facts!

<https://identify.us.com/idmybug/head-lice/head-lice-FAQS/index.html>