

Myths	Truths
Myth - People with poor hygiene and lower income are at higher risk for getting head lice.	Anyone can get head lice, they just need a human host.
Myth - A person can get head lice from pets.	Animals do not carry human head lice. You can only get them from another person.
Myth - Boys do not get head lice.	Some research indicates that more girls get head lice than boys, but longer hair may be the contributing factor. It is NOT recommended to cut hair simply because of head lice.
Myth - There are products available that can be used to prevent head lice.	There is NO current scientific research supporting products to prevent lice. Avoiding head to head contact and keeping long hair pulled back or in a ponytail may be beneficial.
Myth - I have heard that over-the-counter head lice products no longer work.	<p>Research finding resistance has only been conducted in a few places in our country. The current recommendation is to begin treatment with over-the-counter products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment failure of over-the-counter products may be related to not following all of the directions such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The product may advise not to use shampoo or conditioners for a period of time. ○ The product might require a second treatment a few days later. • All family members and close contacts, including blended family members, need to be checked and, if lice are present, treated at the same time. • People often mistake other things (like dandruff) for nits. • Prescription products are available if needed.

Things **parents** can do to assist with prevention of spread of Head Lice:

- Frequently monitor the heads of young children for signs of head lice (nits present at the nape of the neck or above the ears), especially if children are displaying symptoms of Itchy scalp.
- Report cases of head lice to the school nurse. The school nurse is happy to assist and provide information about new effective products for elimination of head lice.
- Inform parents of your child's playmates if they have been exposed to head lice.
- Above all, remain calm and remember head lice do not spread any known disease.
- Helpful websites include:
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>
 - <https://identify.us.com/>
 - http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/head_lice.htm