



# Olympic Educational Service District 114

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## OESD Head Start / ECEAP / Early Head Start Exposure Notice

Date:

To: All Parents

From: Your Child's Classroom

Subject: **HEAD LICE**

Your child may have been exposed to head lice in the classroom. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene or unclean homes or schools and they do not carry disease. Lice are a nuisance and uncomfortable for children. Please check your child's scalp every day for the next two weeks.

**Appearance** An infestation of adult lice on the scalp and/or eggs (nits) on the hair shafts. Head lice are less than an 1/8 of an inch in length. Lice eggs "nits", attach to a hair shaft until they hatch into live lice. Scalp may itch.

**Cause** Head lice are a small insect. The head louse lays eggs "nits" which hatch in 7 - 12 days.

**Spread** Head lice can be transmitted as long as the lice remain alive. Only live, hatched lice-not nits-spread the infestation. Transmission of head lice occurs most commonly by direct contact with live louse through head-to-head contact. It is uncommon for lice to spread from inanimate objects such as hats, combs, brushes, pillows, helmets, headphones, or movie theatre seats. Head lice cannot survive away from the scalp for more than 2 days at room temperature. Nits are not easily transmitted because they are glued to the hair shaft.

**Treatment** Follow instructions on classroom handout: *Head Lice-Who Does What Work Chart*.

**Return to Class** Children may return to school after treatment has begun.

If you have questions, please contact your classroom's Family/Health Advocate, or the Health Program Manager 360-478-6878, or the Kitsap County Health District Communicable Disease Nurses at 360-728-2235.