

Dear Families:

This letter is to be written to inform you of HCCC's head lice policies. Please do not be alarmed, as this is a common occurrence in schools and group care. Head lice are not a sign of unclean people or homes. If there have been head lice in your child's classroom we ask that you take the following precautions:

- Check your hair for eggs (also called nits).
- If you suspect your child has head lice, ask your health care provider to diagnose the problem and recommend appropriate treatment.
- Please inform us if your child is diagnosed as having head lice.
- If head lice is diagnosed, do not return your child to school until she or he has been treated and all the nits have been removed.

*What is head lice?* Head lice are tiny insects that live only on people's scalp and hair. They hatch from small eggs (nits) that are firmly attached to the individual hairs near the scalp and cannot be easily moved up or down the hair (as can specks of dandruff). They look like grains of sand. Nits may be found throughout the hair but are most often located at the back of the scalp near the neck and behind the ears. The eggs hatch in 6-10 days, with new lice reaching adulthood about 2-3 weeks later. Lice can survive 1-2 days away from the scalp. Until a person with head lice is treated they can transmit them to others.

*How should you check for head lice?* You probably will not see the lice, only the eggs. These are tiny, pearl-gray, oval shaped specks attached to the hair near the scalp. Look carefully using a lot of light. Search for nits at the back of the neck, behind the ears, and at the top of the head.

*When can your child return?* If your child was diagnosed with head lice, he or she can come back as soon as the shampoo has been used, you have removed ALL nits from your child's hair, and you have cleaned or stored personal items. Remember you must keep checking your child's hair for new nits every day for at least 3 weeks and then periodically thereafter. **Your child must be checked by an HCCC staff member before he or she is allowed to come back to school. We have a "No Nit Policy" at the center which means all eggs must be removed.**

We take precautions with respect to the spreading of head lice here at HCCC. Please refer to the DPH Head Lice Fact Sheet that is linked on our website for more information. We appreciate your cooperation with the above policies and procedures. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Judy doCurren*

Judy doCurren  
Executive Director

*Janelle Montanez*

Janelle Montanez  
Assistant Director