

## WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?



Figure 1: Head Louse  
*Pediculus capitis*

Head lice are small, wingless parasitic insects. They are typically 1/6 -1/8 inches long, brownish in color with darker margins. The claws on the end of each of their legs are well adapted to grasping a hair strand.

Female head lice glue their grayish-white to brown eggs (nits) securely to hair shafts. The eggs are difficult to remove without a special “nit-comb”. The nits are generally near the scalp, but they may be found anywhere on the hair shaft.

A child cannot “catch nits”. Nits (lice eggs) can only be laid by live lice.

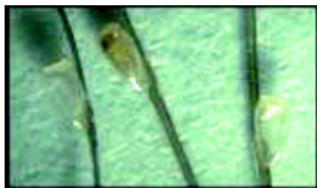


Figure 2: Nits (lice eggs)

## Interesting Facts on Head Lice

- ♦ Dead lice have been found on Egyptian mummies, Incan princes and North American Indian remains
- ♦ Women of Northern Siberia threw lice at their men as signs of affection



Head lice can affect people of any socio-economic background and ethnicity and they DO NOT imply a lack of cleanliness or hygiene of the affected person.

Overall, head lice are more a nuisance than anything else, although some people do find the discovery of head lice very embarrassing. If you have children it is likely that they will have a case during childhood, but if you have the knowledge and treatments available at home, it can be easily remedied. Remember, ANYONE can get head lice and it's nothing to be ashamed of!



## H.I.S.D

## Educating parents

## HEAD LICE 101: A PARENT'S GUIDE



Dear parents/guardians, there was ONE case of a child in our school recently to have Nits ( Lice Eggs). Do not be alarmed as this is a common occurrence in every school nation wide. Please review this pamphlet for information on how to check your child for head lice and for treatment tips.