

A Guide to Head Lice Management

A child with a current head lice infection

must have



'actual moving lice in their hair'

THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THERE IS A CURRENT HEAD LICE INFECTION

Eggs (black or very dark) on the scalp - only a percentage of these eggs (the fertilised ones) will hatch and hair should be checked daily with a bone comb/conditioner to see if any do actually hatch.

Nits (white or greyish hatched eggs) - these can be found on the hair shaft. **These are 'dead' egg cases which CANNOT spread.** A child may have been successfully treated but the treatments **DO NOT** remove the nits which are very difficult to remove and therefore can remain 'stuck' to the hair shaft as the hair grows. Only ongoing and thorough bone combing will remove nits. Children with large amounts of nits are often assumed to 'have head lice' - **THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.**

Scratching - This is not always an indication of head lice and some children with severe head lice infections don't have an 'urge to itch'

