

## CALIFORNIA MONTESSORI PROJECT

### Information on Head Lice

#### Dear Parent or Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_ A child in our School has/had Head Lice. \_\_\_\_\_ Lice has been found in your child's classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child may have Head Lice.

#### **CMP HOLDS A NO NIT POLICY:**

The Montessori environment educates children with Montessori materials on the floor with carpets and rugs, sharing materials and learning from one another in close proximity, therefore CMP implements a no nit policy. We are aware that we employ a more stringent standard in our lice policy than what other traditional schools may subscribe to.

#### **PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS:**

1. Do your own check of your child's hair for eggs (also called "nits") using the information given below.
2. If you suspect your child has Head Lice, ask your health care provider to diagnose the problem and recommend appropriate treatment.
3. Tell your school administrator if your child is diagnosed as having Head Lice.
4. Your child may return to school only if there are NO lice (dead or alive) and NO eggs/nits (dead or alive) present.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT HEAD LICE:**

**WHAT ARE THEY?** Head Lice are tiny insects that live only on people's scalps and hair. They hatch from small eggs, called nits, which are firmly attached to the individual hairs near the scalp and cannot be easily moved up or down the hair (as could specks of dandruff). Nits may be found throughout the hair but are most often located at the back of the scalp, behind the ears, and the top of the head.

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?** Watch for itching of the head. Skin around the ears or back of the neck may become inflamed or red from itching.

**HOW DOES A PERSON GET HEAD LICE?** Head Lice are not a sign of unclean people or homes. They can occur at any age and to either gender. Head lice infestation is spread most commonly by close person-to-person contact. Head lice move by crawling. They do not hop or fly.

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT HEAD LICE?**

1. If your child does have Head Lice consult your healthcare provider. Your health care provider may suggest checking and/or treating everyone in your family.
  
2. **Remember to take care of your home too!**
  - Wash all clothes, sheets, towels and blankets in hot water (at least 130 degrees). Dry them in a HOT dryer.
  - Put non-washable (furry toys, pillows, etc.) items in a HOT dryer for 10 minutes to dry-clean them.
  - Seal items which cannot be washed or dried in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.
  - Boil combs, brushes, etc., for 10 minutes or throw them away.
  - Vacuum rugs, upholstered furniture, and mattresses thoroughly.
  - Vacuum your car and car seats.
  - Do not use insecticide sprays which can be harmful to people and animals.
  
3. **WHEN CAN YOUR CHILD RETURN BACK TO SCHOOL?**

**Your child may return to school only if there are NO LICE (DEAD OR ALIVE) and NO EGGS/NITS present.**
  
4. Remember that you must keep checking your child's hair daily for new nits for at least 2-3 weeks.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION.**

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR INCIDENTS OF HEAD LICE IN SCHOOL:**

When Head Lice is discovered in school the following steps must be taken immediately.

1. Head check must be conducted on all students in class
2. Any student with Head Lice will go to the office and their parents will be contacted for pick up. Let the parent know that they are required to come directly to the office the following morning with their child/ren for a head check, and if lice are still present they will need to take their child/ren home for more treatment.
3. Head Lice eradication procedures will go into immediate effect within the school.
4. Each time lice is found communication will be sent home to all parents to notify them.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION.**