

## Sample letter to parents

Dear Parents:

This letter is to inform you about the common problem of head lice. Head lice can affect anyone, but most often it affects younger school-age children.

Head lice are parasites. They are considered by health officials to be a nuisance because they are difficult to eliminate. They are not a health hazard and are not connected in any way with long hair, dirt, neglect, or not being clean. Head lice can spread quickly from head to head when a group of children have close contact (e.g., school, camp, day-care). They can be spread by sharing hats, brushes, combs, bedding, etc.

Prevention of head lice is everyone's responsibility. Cooperation and prompt action on the part of parents, school staff, and the health unit will help to reduce the inconvenience to children. We encourage parents to look at their children's hair on a regular basis. When checking for nits (eggs), the hair should be dry. A convenient time for a visual check may be just before washing your child's hair.

If you find any head lice or nits (eggs), obtain and use a medicated head lice shampoo or medicated cream rinse from your pharmacist, and contact the school to inform them that your child has been treated. The school needs to be informed so that other parents and school officials can be advised to check the heads of others. Finding and treating head lice early will stop your child from getting a severe case and stop the spread of head lice to other children.

Further information and references about head lice can be obtained from the school or your local Porcupine Health Unit office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Principal