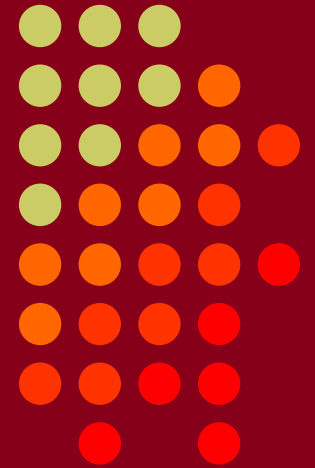
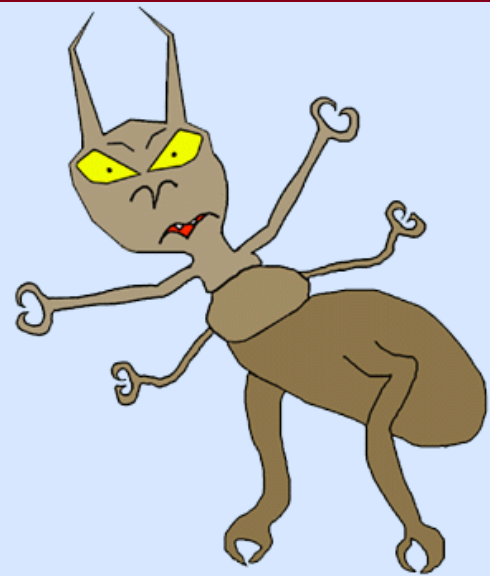


# Head Lice

Evidence Based Management In  
the School Setting



# What are Head Lice?



- Small parasitic insects who have adapted to living mainly on the scalp and neck hairs of their human hosts.
- Have long been associated with humans.
- Have been recovered from prehistoric mummies.
- Do not live on other animals.
- **Can Not** jump, fly or swim.
- Obtain nutrients from blood-feeding.



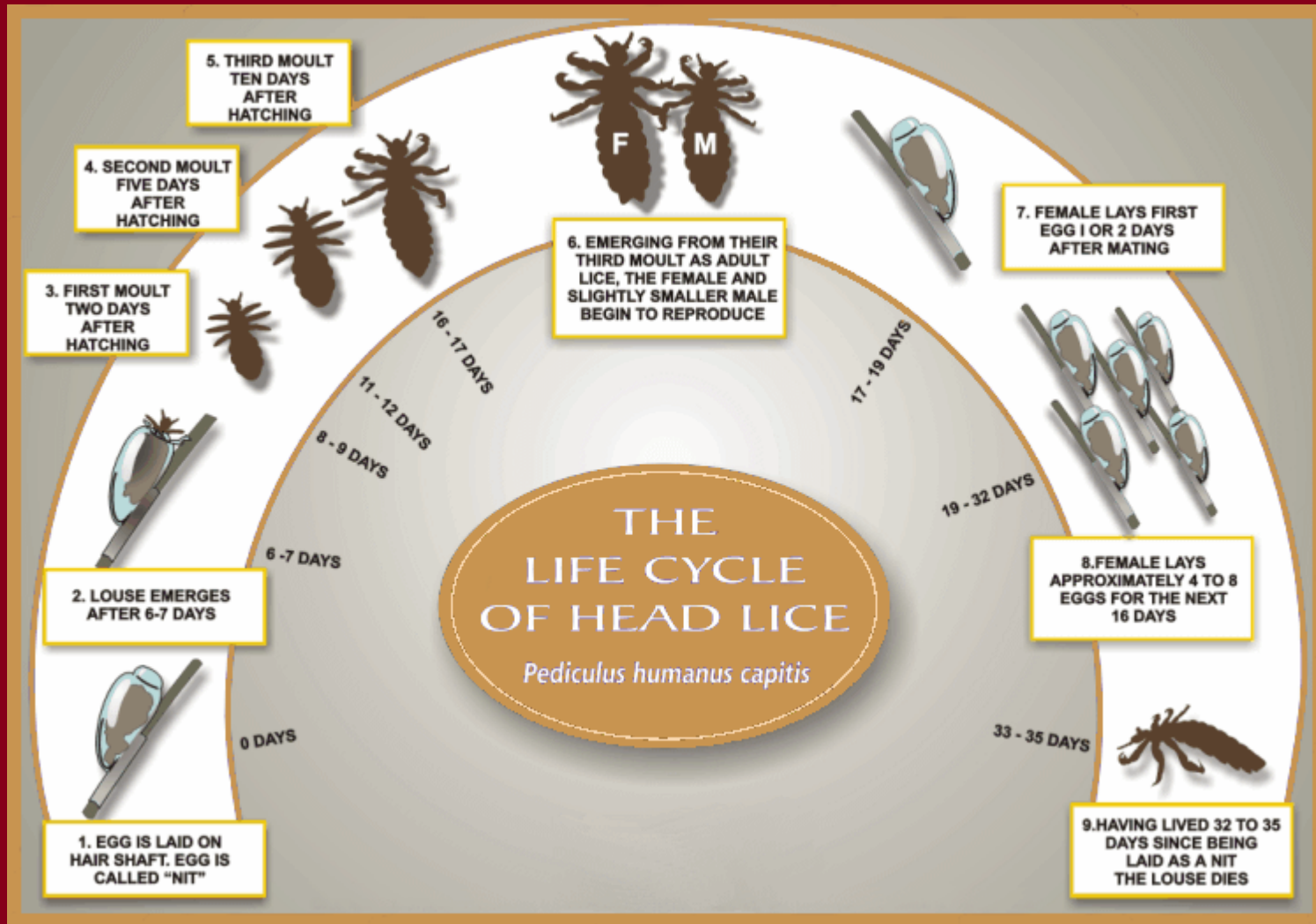




# Head Lice cont.



- Cannot survive for more than a day without access to human blood.
- Eggs (nits) are laid on the shaft of individual hairs near the scalp.
- Eggs hatch in 8-10 days. Once it has hatched the louse will mature in less than 2 weeks.
- Female head lice may survive up to 1 month.



# Head Lice cont.



- If nits are present, head lice have already been there however; they may be long gone.
- Not caused by or associated with poor hygiene or parental neglect.
- Does not pose medical or public health problems.
- Does not transmit diseases.



# Head Lice: How do we get them?

- The most Common means of transmission is through physical/direct (**HEAD TO HEAD**) contact.
- Indirect transmission is uncommon but may occur via shared combs, brushes, hats and hair accessories that have been in contact with an infected person.
- Schools are **NOT** a common source of transmission.



# Why is Roselle District 12 revising it's Head Lice guidelines?



# Why??????



- The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, the Center for Disease Control and the Harvard School of Public Health have all recommended that students with nits and/or head lice infestation need not be excluded from school.

# Why cont.



- Researchers report that a child with an active head lice infestation is likely to have been infested for at least one month by the time it is discovered.
- Exclusion from school causes unnecessary absence from work and school.
- Studies have proven that screening for head lice in schools does **NOT** decrease the incidence of head lice.

# Why cont.



- Education of parents in identifying and managing head lice is more effective than class wide screenings.



# Harvard's Scheme for Managing Presumed Head Lice Infestation in Schools



**Nits Discovered on hair?**

**YES**

**No** → Do nothing



Inspect hair for live lice.



# Harvard's Scheme for Managing Presumed Head Lice Infestation in Schools cont.



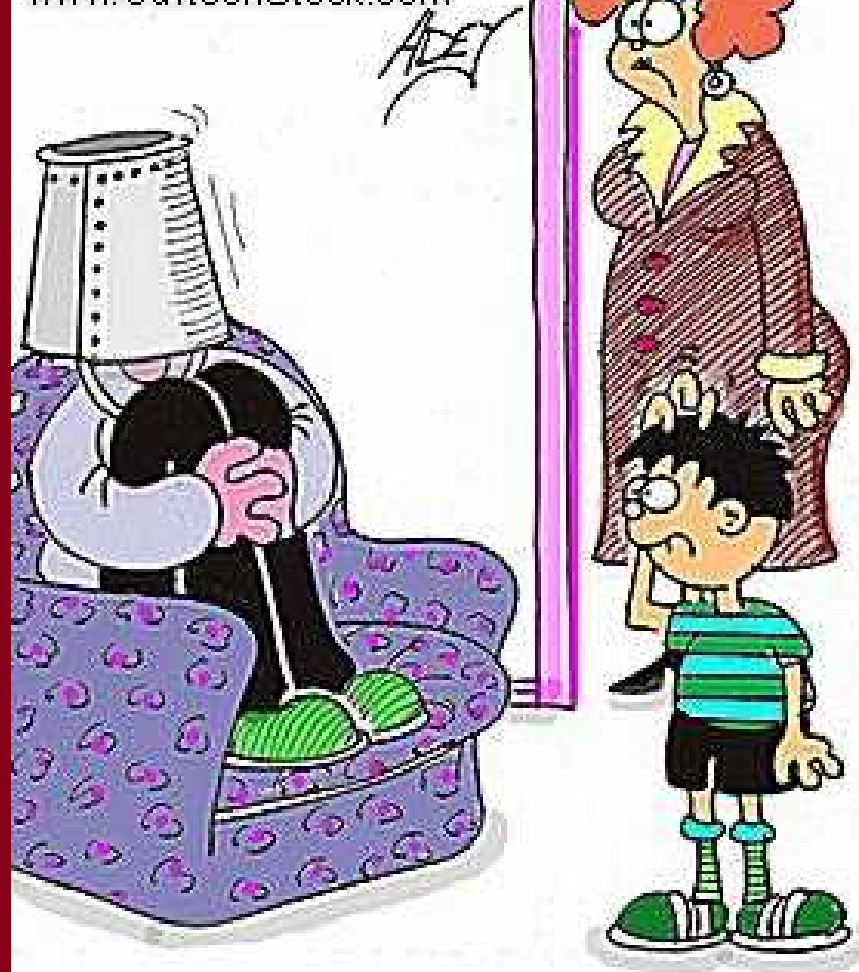
Live (crawling) lice on hair?

**Yes**   **No** → Re-inspect hair in 7-10 days



- Notify parent of the suspected infestation; recommend that they call their physician for recommendations to treat head lice.
- Provide information on head lice and methods to eliminate the infestation.

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"I think Tarquin has nits dear."



# Harvard's Scheme for Managing Presumed Head Lice Infestation in Schools cont.



## UNJUSTIFIED RESPONSE TO LIVE LICE

- Exclusion or quarantine.
- Notification of classmates' parents.
- Classroom or school wide screenings.
- Insecticide treatment of the school environment.
- Bagging of clothes, toys etc.
- Restricted use of headphones.



# What the staff needs to know:



- Creating unnecessary panic in the school community is a disservice to students.
- We need to educate students, families and ourselves based on facts and not on fear.
- Don't let head lice interfere with your students' opportunities to learn in the classroom. Unnecessary absences put a child at risk for failure.

# Roselle District 12 Head Lice Guidelines



If a student, parent or staff member report suspected case of head lice the school nurse will:

- Inspect the scalp and head for live lice.
  - A.** If nits are found but there are no live lice, the student is sent back to class and the nurse will inspect the student in 7-10 days.

# Roselle District 12 Head Lice Guidelines



- B.** If live (crawling) lice are found:
1. The student is sent back to class.
  2. The parent/guardian shall be notified via phone and a letter will be sent home with the child. The parent will be provided with information on head lice, methods to eliminate the infestation, and preventive methods.

# Roselle District 12 Head Lice Guidelines



3. The student can come back to school after it has been verified that the student has received treatment.
4. The nurse will inspect the student in 7-10 days. If live lice are found than the same procedure will be implemented.



# Resources

- NASN pediculosis position statement  
<http://www.nasn.org>
- Harvard School of Public Health  
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>
- AAP policy on head lice  
<http://www.aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics>

