

Don't lose your head over lice

ANCHOR LEDE

It can cause panic for parents, but it doesn't have to.

We're talking about head lice, something seen often in doctor's offices across the area and the country.

The good news for parents: in most cases, your child doesn't have to miss school and can be treated with over-the-counter remedies.

TAKE VO

Lice typically spread when you share objects like a comb or hat or when you have head-to-head contact with someone. Itchiness is the primary symptom, and the infestation usually lasts seven to 10 days.

You can take your child to their pediatrician if you feel it's needed. But for a mild first case of lice, over-the-counter products at home, like the Nix® or Rid® treatment kits, may do the trick.

To prevent lice from coming back, keeping a clean home goes a long way.

SOT

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"Spray the couches, bedding and floors with sprays that are for lice. You have to vacuum. You have to bag every stuffed animal for at least two weeks to suffocate the lice. Take the sheets off the bed every day and dry them on high heat until you know the lice are gone." (:28)

VO TAG

Federal guidelines say if a child has lice, they don't need to leave school early. Once they start treatment, they can return to school. Isom suggests checking with your child's school to see how it handles lice. Also, look at your kid's scalp often to catch lice early.