Facing head lice: IN SCHOOL & IN THE COMMUNITY

It’s time to break the stigma—and separate fact from myth so you can face head lice at school and in the neighborhood.

NOT TO WORRY—YOU’RE NOT ALONE.

6-12 million cases per year in 1986¹.

Since then, the population has grown 25% and likely so has the head lice problem.

HEAD LICE DON’T DISCRIMINATE (AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU).

Equal opportunity insects.

They have nothing to do with socioeconomic status, cleanliness or hygiene².

YOU CAN’T BLAME IT ON YOUR PETS.

It’s a human parasite.

Dogs, cats and other pets don’t contribute to the spread of head lice³.

THE STIGMA IS AS PERVERSIVE AS THE CONDITION.

It traces back to the 1700s.

Said a poet: “…lice are disgusting, the well-to-do should be protected from them, and the poor deserved them…”⁴

MYTHS ABOUT HEAD LICE RUN IN THE FAMILY.

A story well told...

Parents can socialize their children to have the same beliefs and misperceptions about head lice as they do⁵.

References:

5. S. Paladino; 2014 - The infestation of stigma: an ecological system approach to the stigmatization of head lice.
Facing head lice: AT HOME

Let’s debunk the myths, break the stigmas and help you get back to focusing on everyday activities.

YOU’RE NOT A ‘LOUSY’ PARENT!

Stop beating yourself up.

A child having head lice has no correlation or relevance to parenting skills or abilities.

THEY DON’T STALK CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.

Think sleepovers and camps.

They typically get passed where there is prolonged head-to-head contact.

THEY WON’T LIVE IN YOUR CLOTHES, SHEETS OR HAIRBRUSH.

They only live on hair.

Nits (eggs) can only survive in moist surroundings and attached to the hair shaft near the scalp.

THEY WON’T SURVIVE A DAY OR TWO AWAY.

Rest in peace, head lice.

A louse can live ~30 days on a person’s head, but dies within 24 - 48 hours away from the body.

HEAD LICE CAN’T HOP, JUMP, OR FLY.

They’re wingless—they crawl.

In most cases, they can only be spread by head-to-head contact lasting >30 seconds.

References: