**Head Lice Treatment and Prevention**

* Treat the head lice with over the counter head lice treatment and comb the nits out of your child’s hair. Retreat their hair following the guidelines on the head lice product used (usually 3-7 days after the initial treatment) and comb daily for remaining nits so any nits that survived do not hatch.
* Vacuum furniture and carpets, especially if the person with lice frequently lies on them.
* Soak combs, brushes, and any other hair tools in hot water for 5-10 minutes. For even greater protection, consider replacing them.
* Wash scarves, hats, and other clothing that comes into direct contact with the head. Running the clothing in the dryer is fine if the clothing cannot be washed safely.
* Wash or replace pillows and pillowcases.
* Wash bedding in hot water the same day hair is treated. Place items which cannot be laundered in to a sealed plastic bag for two weeks.
* Encourage children not to share combs, brushes, hats, or scarves with other children.

It might feel time-consuming and frustrating to wash so many different items, but head lice will return even if a handful of nits make their way back onto the head. The extra time now can save more time over the following weeks.