

# \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

## Keewaydin Policy on Head Lice

*THIS POLICY REQUIRES YOUR PARTICIPATION. Please read and share with your son.*

Our goal is to have a lice-free summer. We need your help to make that possible. Please take the following precautionary measures to see that your camper is free of both lice and nits (eggs) prior to arrival at camp. **It is your responsibility to make sure your child is lice-free before arriving at camp. PLEASE NOTIFY NURSE AT [nurse@keewaydin.org](mailto:nurse@keewaydin.org) IF YOUR SON HAS BEEN TREATED FOR LICE WITHIN 8 WEEKS OF ARRIVAL.**

### 1. CHECK YOUR CAMPER

- 1-2 weeks prior to arrival *and* 48 hours prior to arrival

### 2. WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Head lice are small grayish-white insects, which are found in the hair, behind the ears, and on the nape of the neck. Their bites cause itching and scratching, which is frequently the first sign of an infection.
- The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed. They attach their eggs to strands of hair close to the scalp. Nits are the size of a poppy seed and are gray, oval shaped specks that are firmly attached to the hair, usually about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the scalp.

### 3. WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR SON HAS LICE

- Contact your pediatrician for treatment advice. They may request an exam to confirm the diagnosis. All bedding and clothing must be washed and dried.
- There are many over-the-counter remedies, both chemical and herbal. The idea is to kill the live adults and then pick or comb the nits off the hair shaft.
- Nit-picking/combing can be very time consuming and must be done every day for a week to ensure that no eggs remain which could hatch. Most eggs will hatch in a week, but some have been known to survive for 10 days.
- Usually a repeat treatment is necessary one week after the first, to kill any eggs which may have escaped the comb and subsequently hatched.
- Notify the nurse if your son has an infection within one month of camp

### \*\*\*\*CAMP PROCEDURE\*\*\*\*

- Each camper will be examined for head lice upon arrival. If nits or lice are present, that individual *will* receive a very short haircut, similar to a military cut, before they are allowed to return to their tent. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** He may also be required to shampoo with a lice treatment, depending on the severity of the infestation. All clothing and bedding will be washed and dried. *Please make sure your son understands what will happen if he arrives with lice, so this doesn't all come as a surprise to him on opening day.*
- Parents will be called so that family members can be checked.