

What's Bugging Nurse Penny?

A Story about Lice

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Published by Albert Whitman & Company 2013



Some Facts about Lice

- * A single lice bug is called a louse. An adult louse may grow to two or three millimeters long. That's about the size of a sesame seed.
- * Lice may appear light gray or tan in color.
- * Female lice can lay up to ten eggs a day. They attach each egg with a glue-like substance to a human hair shaft near the scalp.
- * Lice eggs hatch in eight or nine days. Once the eggs hatch, the empty shells, or nits, are left behind and remain attached to the hair shaft.
- * Lice feed every few hours. They inject a small amount of saliva and draw out a small amount of blood from a person's scalp.
- * The most common symptom of a lice infestation is an itchy scalp.
- * Lice do not spread disease.
- * A lice infestation is not a sign of uncleanliness.
- * Lice infestation is most common in children three to twelve years old. However, adults may be infested too.



- * Lice infestation in the United State is less common in African Americans.

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website "the head louse found most frequently in the United States may have claws that are better adapted for grasping the shape and width of some types of hair but not others."

These facts are based on information from an online clinical report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, with additional information from the website of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/2/392.full.pdf+html

www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/biology.html



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