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HEAD LICE

Lice have always been and will continue to be a problem among school age children. Young children are cosy creatures, they get their heads together to share secrets, caps, combs and head lice. Broad spectrum treatment is needed, because if the nits (eggs) of head lice aren't destroyed then the problem will recur.

Essential oils are an excellent way of dealing with the problem and you may notice that the percentage of oils is higher than that normally used. If there is any burning or discomfort to the skin, increase the amount of grape seed oil in the mixture from 5 tablespoons to 6 tablespoons.

ESSENTIAL OILS

Bergamot, eucalyptus, geranium, lavender, rosemary.

TREATMENT

Wash all bedding and personal clothes in very hot water. Add 2 teaspoons eucalyptus oil to the rinsing water. Hang in the sun for a whole day, turning inside out at intervals so that every part of the material (particularly seams and hems) receives air and sun. Nits hatch out at 48 hour intervals so the treatment of clothes and bedding will need to be carried out every two days until the problem no longer exists.

HEAD LICE OIL TREATMENT

5 tablespoons grape seed oil 30 drops geranium essential oil 30 drops eucalyptus essential oil 20 drops lavender essential oil

Mix all the oils together in a small bottle and shake to blend. Leave for 4 days before using so the oils have time to synergise or combine well.

TREATMENT

Massage thoroughly into the hair and scalp; cover with a shower cap and leave on either all day or all night. The following morning, shampoo the hair and comb through with a fine tooth comb paying particular attention behind the ears and the back of the neck - this will help to get rid of nits. Add 2 drops of rosemary essential oil in the final rinse water. When hair is dry, comb it with the cleaned fine-toothed comb. Repeat the process every 2 days for a week, but don't continue on a regular basis after that.