

Louse: what is this?

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Pediculosis, head lice infestation (*Pediculus capitis*), is a worldwide problem that affects humans of different races, sex, ages and socioeconomic conditions, thus constituting a disease of great relevance for public health. However, pediculosis presents a higher prevalence among schoolchildren, being the main ectoparasitosis in children. The awareness of pediculosis is the first step for people to leave the inertia and to take actions that allow interference in transmission and infestation, determining a better quality of life for the whole community, since pediculosis is transmitted in any space where there is proximity between infested individuals and susceptible individuals, with no link with socioeconomic level. The aim of this study was to carry out educational actions with students from 3rd to 5th year of elementary school of municipal schools of Niterói in order to publicize the pediculosis theme and contribute to the prevention of this parasitosis. A workshop was developed consisting of three activities: an interactive and informative presentation, visualization of evolutionary forms of lice and modeling, and a quiz followed by music. At the end of the activities, an evaluation of the frequency of virtual positivity of pediculosis was carried out by asking workshop participants if they had already had lice and the workshop as good, fair or bad. Six workshops were held in 2016, with the participation of 158 students from the public school system and 17 teachers. Of the participants, 106 (67.1%) students reported having had pediculosis. In the evaluation of the workshop 153 (96.8%) students and 17 (100%) teachers considered as good and five (3.2%) students as regular. The teachers, in informal conversation after the workshop, praised the activity, noting that the presentation of the content was very interesting and that the multiple activities developed provide students with effective learning. The children immediately after the workshop continued to talk about the subject, demonstrating that there was awareness. Some schools that attended the workshop with two groups of students on different days told us that the students were enthusiastic and that they commented on the subject in the days following the workshop. The workshop allowed the participating teachers to disseminate more correct information about pediculosis in their spaces, according to their reports. In addition, they provided training for undergraduate students in the application of the workshop and mediation of information on pediculosis. The workshop developed proved to be a strategy capable of motivating participants and promoting group awareness. In this way, it has contributed to the dissemination of pediculosis in the school community and may indirectly contribute to the control of this ectoparasitosis that represents a collective health problem, since over the years it has been the main ectoparasitosis in Brazil and in the world .