

6 TIPS

Sensory Friendly Lice Treatment For Children With Autism



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IF COMBING IS NOT AN OPTION - Due to Sensitivity Issues

- Most lice treatments suggest combing with a metal lice comb. This can be out of the question for an autistic child.
- Many prefer enzyme-based treatments like **Coco Loco Natural Lice Treatment Spray** since it's gentle, very mildly scented, and doesn't require rinsing. A good natural enzyme based product, like **Coco Loco** can easily be applied any time of the day. It does not kill eggs, but it kills hatched lice quickly in 5 minutes, dries beautifully in hair.
- The suggested protocol is to saturate the head every 4 days, for 2-3 week. Even without ANY combing, it ends an infestation because you are continually "killing of the life cycle". Eventually eggs wash out.



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IF COMBING IS AN OPTION...

- Moms often swear by micro-grooved metal lice combs like the **NitNabber Lice Comb**, as it remove more lice and eggs with fewer strokes - making the process quicker. Parallel (not diagonal) micro-grooving seemed to pull hair less, be more comfortable for the child.
- Combing can be tough for kids with autism, so many moms break it into short sessions instead of doing it all at once.

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Managing Sensory Challenges

- Moms with autistic kids often adapt the treatment to make it more comfortable:
- Distraction: Using a tablet, favorite TV show, or toy/fidget spinner
- Comfortable Setting: Letting the child sit in a comfortable chair.
- Minimize Tangles: **Spraying hair with a detangler, conditioner, or argon oil to reduce uncomfortable tugging or hair pulling.**
- Slower speed when using the lice comb can reduce pulling & discomfort.

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Breaking It Into Steps

- Instead of overwhelming their child with a long process, many moms use a step-by-step, structured approach with breaks in between:
- Spray hair with lice treatment (if tolerated). Wait 5-10 minutes (watch a show or use a timer).
- **Comb a small section, then take a break.**
- Repeat until all sections are done.

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Using Visual Schedules & Rewards

- Many moms use visual schedules or first-then statements ("First we comb, then you get screen time").
- **Some kids respond well to small rewards for finishing each step, like stickers, snacks, or playtime.**

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Preventing Reinfestation Without Overwhelming Their Child

- Lice Prevention Sprays: Spraying hair with **Coco Loco** or scented hair product before school or any activities, to deter lice.
- Minimal Laundry Stress: Put sheet, pillow case, & bath towel ONLY of whoever is 'recovering from lice' in a hot dryer 20-30 min. on high.
- Pull all hair out of brushes. Put them EITHER in a ziplock in the freezer (3-6 hours), or the dishwasher. Color code brushes w/ponytail band. **NO NEED** to vacuum, or bag everything for 2 weeks! Lice ONLY live on HEADS, not pillows, stuffed animals, couches, etc.
- **For girls - ALWAYS braid & bun before school & activities. Mist with Coco Loco or scented hair product. Lice LOVE LOOSE HAIR!**

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