



Threadworm

LEARNING STORE

Dear Parent

I am writing to all families to pass on some useful information and guidance concerning threadworms, a common problem among young children.

Threadworms are passed from person to person and are usually spread via children. The female worms lay eggs on a person's skin around the anus. This leads to itching and scratching of the area and to eggs being transferred onto fingers. The eggs can be passed by direct contact, or through sharing toys, pencils, food, etc. Good hygiene is essential to stop the infection being spread. This includes washing hands and scrubbing under the nails after visiting the toilet and eating.

To help prevent the spread of threadworms and other infections, it is important to encourage young children to regularly wash and dry their hands. To encourage this The Clean Crusaders campaign, sponsored by McNeil Ltd, a Johnson & Johnson company, has produced an entertaining ten-minute video, using music, drama and puppets to promote basic hygiene awareness for 4–7 year- olds. Visit the website <http://www.bootslearningstore.com/parent/threadw/basics.htm>

The most common sign of threadworms is scratching of the bottom, particularly at night. Some sufferers show no signs of infection, in which case it is a question of spotting the tiny 'thread-like' worms on your child's motions.

Tips

Infected children or adults should be treated as soon as possible. The rest of the family should also be treated at the same time.

Threadworms are very easy to treat. The same kind of threadworm treatment most prescribed by doctors is available from pharmacies without prescription. Ovex is a simple one-dose treatment that works to kill threadworms. The tablet is orange flavoured, sugar free and chewable. Also available is a suspension (liquid) format, banana-flavoured for a pleasant taste and easy to swallow. Ovex is suitable for adults and for children over two years. Women who are - or think that they may be - pregnant, or breastfeeding, should seek a doctor for advice.

If you need any further information or advice, please ask your pharmacist.

Yours faithfully

Head teacher

OVEX™ contains mebendazole. Always read the label and ask your pharmacist for advice.