

Parents' worries about school and how to handle them

Experts offer advice on such school issues as bullying, concussions, not wanting to go, safety, head lice and bad grades.

Emergencies can include natural disasters and a police-ordered lockdown.

Schools should have "a plan in place, that's usually created by a team," Duff says. (The state of California requires that all public schools [K-12] operated by a school district have such a plan.) Parents can find out more by speaking to school administrators.

Don't worry:

Head lice

Few ailments make parents more squeamish than the idea of tiny bugs crawling around on the scalps of their children. And they're not uncommon; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 6 million to 12 million children ages 3 to 11 get head lice each year.

"It's a nuisance, it disrupts family and life, kids can't go to school, and it's [an] economic" difficulty, says Risa Barash, the owner of Fairy Tale Hair Care, a line specializing in lice products.

But head lice are easily treatable and don't cause permanent damage.

Barash suggests that children avoid sharing hats and combs, or having head-to-head contact with other kids. The American Academy of Pediatrics also advises parents to do regular head checks on their children, particularly if they have attended a sleepover or camp.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/la-he-0831-school-fears-20130831,0,7364022.story?page=2>