

# Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow?

**MONIQUE'S HAIR SALON**

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## WHEN WE THINK OF OUR CHILDREN, WE WANT TO

experience nothing but happy thoughts. Unfortunately, there are nearly 2 million children suffering from some sort of hair loss in the United States.

Luckily, about 60% of all children that suffer from some sort of hair loss will “outgrow” the condition. As a parent dealing with a child with hair loss, it is one of the most helpless feelings in the world. You want to fix it and make it better for your child. There is desperation and a surge of emotions to contend with, from sadness to anger.

There are no definite answers as to why children suffer from hair loss, but some of the more common reasons children develop hair loss include Alopecia (Areata, Totalis, or Universalis), Tinea Capitis, Traction Alopecia, Trichotillomania, Telogen Effluvium, Cancer, Chemotherapy or Radiation.

**ALOPECIA** is an auto immune disease that affects people worldwide. Alopecia Areata is patchy hair loss. Alopecia Totalis presents itself as total hair loss on the entire scalp. Alopecia Universalis is the rarest form of Alopecia and it affects hair over the entire scalp and body.

**TINEA CAPITIS** is a disease caused by fungal infection of the skin of the scalp, eyebrows, and eyelashes, with a propensity for attacking hair shafts and follicles. It is also called “ringworm of the scalp”.



**TRACTION ALOPECIA**, or physical damage to the hair, is another common cause of hair loss, particularly in girls.

**TRICHOTILLOMANIA** is the compulsion to pull out one’s own hair.

**TELOGEN EFFLUVIUM** is a type of hair loss that has to do with the normal growth cycle of the hair.

## CANCER, CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION

Your child will need to know if hair loss is likely to occur because of his or her treatment, and parenting a child with hair loss can be difficult.

Parents of children with hair loss need to keep in mind that children can be much more resilient than we imagine. They are generally optimistic, and don’t have the expectation for rejection or ridicule that adults may have because they haven’t experienced or observed it as much as adults have, and children take their cues from the adults in their world, and particularly from you, as a parent. If

a child sees that their hair loss is a source of anxiety or sadness for you, they will internalize those feelings.

In addition, parents should know that the feeling of guilt about somehow being responsible for your child’s hair loss are natural and to be expected. But you need to know that children with hair loss do not blame their parents. Listen to your child: paying attention to how your child’s thinking is affecting his emotional reactions will do a great deal for the parent-child relationship.

So what do we do? Find a specialist, including doctors, dermatologists, and hair replacement centers, and support groups for the child and family to prevent any further problems with hair loss that has occurred in our children.

