



Recipes for Healthy Kids and a Healthy Environment
Kids Building a Safer and Healthier Community

Take-Home Talk

Lesson 2: Pesky Pests and Household Hazards

To Share:

- Pests are living things that can hurt us by making us sick, damage our homes or other property, or destroy plants or agricultural products. A pest can be a plant, an animal, or a disease.
- Pests are everywhere—in our schools, homes, and clubs, and our cities, suburbs, and in the country. There are pests in the White House, the Taj Mahal, and Buckingham Palace. They are everywhere!
- Insects are just one kind of pest that people may encounter. The world has more insects than all other living things combined. It's estimated that there are 10 quintillion (10,000,000,000,000,000,000) insects!
- Instead of using chemicals that can be toxic in order to get rid of pests, we can remove the things that they need to survive. Take these steps:
 1. Identify the pest.
 2. Take away food.
 3. Take away water.
 4. Take away shelter.
 5. Monitor the situation

To Do and Talk About:

- **Household Hazard Hunt!** With the adults in your family, walk around your home and locate all of the pesticides and chemical cleaners that you use. Are they being kept in a safe place, out of reach? Do you know what each of them is used for? Are there some chemicals that you don't really use or need?
- **Become a Pest!** Imagine that you're an ant. Get down low to the ground. What would an ant see? Where could they go that you can't go? Where is the best place in your neighborhood to live if you're an ant? What would be amazing about being an ant? What would be not so great about being an ant?

To Take Back:

- What was the coolest thing that you learned from talking about this topic with your family and friends?