



Bee Safety Procedures - Learning 4 Life Farm Beekeeping Program

- Before involvement with the apiary a questionnaire will be sent to parents of children about any history of severe reaction to bee stings. Anyone having a severe reaction will not be permitted to enter the apiary.
- Parental consent to be sought before any children will be allowed in close proximity to the hive.
- Student beekeepers will be advised that anaphylactic reaction is extremely rare but will be taught about bee sting reactions and appropriate actions before handling bees.
- Children will always be under close supervision by the head beekeeper and The Learning Spectrum (TLS)/Learning 4 Life Farm L4L) staff when interacting with bees.
- The age, maturity and behavior of pupils will be considered before allowing them to handle bees.
- Students and staff must wear light colored, long sleeve shirts, long pants, and closed-toed boots or shoes with socks.
- L4L will provide a bee-keepers style hat with netting to cover student's head, neck and shoulders and protective gloves.
- Chemical treatments may be used as part of Varroa control. These will be only used by the head Beekeeper.
- Students will be reminded of bee safety on a regular basis and safety and first aid will be reviewed with staff regularly; a log will be kept of when students and staff reminders/reviews occur. Reviews will be conducted at least monthly and with any new students or staff.
- Head beekeeper will be responsible for hive maintenance.
- Contact the beekeeper immediately if the bees become aggressive, swarm or other problems are noticed.
- Sign will be posted with location of hive and beekeeper contact information in case of problems on the weekends/outside of school/organization hours.

Beekeeper's contact information:

Bob Hooker 740-294-1584 Address: 3300 Daglow Rd, Columbus OH 43232

Bee stings

Honeybees sting only as a last resort. When a worker bee stings, she is mortally wounded and dies. Careful handling and quiet behavior at the hive reduce the risk of a sting but suffering the occasional sting cannot be ruled out for anyone dealing directly with bees.

- Dealing with stings will be explained and taught before bees are handled.

- Parents will be notified immediately if their student receives a bee sting.
- 6 steps to take if stung by a bee:
 - Get to safety.
 - Don't panic.
 - Supervising adult with escort student away from the area
 - Walk don't run to a location away from bees (leave area, go inside school).
 - Remove the stinger.
 - Stinger should be removed as soon as possible to reduce the amount of venom transmitted.
 - Remove stinger by scraping under it with fingernail, gauze, etc. If tweezers are used, extra care should be taken to prevent separating stinger from venom sac.
 - Wash affected area and apply ice pack.
 - After removing stinger wash area with soap and water to diminish chances of subsequent bacterial infection.
 - Apply cold compress to affected area to reduce swelling.
 - Over the counter pain medication administered with parent permission
 - After a sting, most people will experience moderate to sharp pain that typically subsides after a couple of hours.
 - Majority of people will also have red, swollen and irritated skin in a diameter going out 2-3 inches from location of sting.
 - About 10% of people will experience more significant symptoms.
 - Parents can come pick up student from school if they prefer to treat symptoms at home
 - Consider DIY remedies
 - With parent permission a paste of baking soda and water can be applied to reduce itching, swelling and redness.
 - Call 911 if signs of anaphylaxis are noted. Notify parent.
 - Hives
 - Flushing
 - Swelling of the face, throat or tongue
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Wheezing
 - Dizziness
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Loss of conscious