The main actions you can take for a bite or sting are to

- Wash the bite or sting area well with lots of running water and soap if available
- Put a bag of ice and water on the bite
- Watch for allergic reactions
- Check if the child needs CPR (particularly after a poisonous bite)

The action tables offer specific steps for different bites and stings, including

- Human and animal bites
- Snakebites
- Insect and bee stings and bites
- Marine bites and stings
- Ticks

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**Human and Animal Bites**

**Definitions and Key Facts**

- Young, preschool-aged children sometimes bite each other. Some young children will bite others to show their feelings.
- Most children stop biting when they grow older.
- Animal bites are less common and can often be prevented. Unfortunately, when they do occur, animal bites can be serious.
- When a bite breaks the skin, the wound can bleed and may become infected from the germs in the child’s or animal’s mouth. Bites that do not break the skin usually are not serious.

**Step 1: Prevent**

- Some bites get infected. You can help prevent this by washing small wounds well as soon as possible.
- Teach children how to safely approach dogs they are not familiar with (calmly, slowly, check with the owner first before approaching or petting).

**Step 2: Be Safe**

- Make sure the scene is safe.
- Stay away from any animal that acts strangely.
- Get the first aid kit.
- Wear PPE.

**Step 3: Phone 911**

- Phone 911
  - If the child has been bitten by an animal
### Step 4: Act

Follow these steps to help a child with a human or animal bite:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Find where the child was bitten.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wash the wound with a lot of running water (and soap if available).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stop any bleeding with pressure and bandages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For all bites that break the skin, phone a healthcare provider.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>If there is a bruise or swelling, place a bag of ice and water wrapped in a towel on the bite for up to 20 minutes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important

- These animals may carry rabies: cat, dog, skunk, raccoon, fox, bat, or other wild animal.
- If a child has been alone in a room with a bat, contact a healthcare provider.

### Snakebites

#### Definitions and Key Facts

- If you recognize the type of snake, tell the people with more advanced training what kind of snake bit the child.
- If you aren’t sure whether a snake is poisonous, assume it is.

#### Step 1: Prevent

- Teach children to leave snakes alone, stay away from snakes, and tell an adult when they come across a snake.
- Keep outdoor play areas away from places where snakes can live, including piles of rock or firewood, as well as tall grass.
- Teach children not to reach into areas where they can’t see what may be hidden.

#### Step 2: Be Safe

- Make sure the scene is safe.
- Be very careful around a wounded snake.
- Back away and go around the snake.
- If a snake has been hurt or killed, leave it alone. A snake might bite even when severely hurt or close to death.
- If a snake needs to be moved, use a long-handled shovel. If you don’t need to move it, leave it alone.
- Get the first aid kit.
- Wear PPE.
Step 3: Phone 911
Phone 911
- If the child has been bitten by a snake

Step 4: Act
Follow these steps to help a child with a snakebite:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Look for signs of a poisonous snakebite. They are  
|      | - Pain in the bite area that keeps getting worse  
|      | - Swelling of the bite area  
|      | - Nausea, vomiting, sweating, and weakness  
| 2    | Ask another adult to move any other people inside or away from the area.  
| 3    | Tell the bitten child to be still and calm. Tell him to avoid moving the part of the body that was bitten.  
| 4    | Remove any tight clothing and jewelry.  
| 5    | Gently wash the bite area with running water (and soap, if available).  

Important
Some people have heard about other ways to provide first aid for a snakebite, such as sucking out poison. The correct steps are in the table.

Insect and Bee Stings and Bites

Definitions and Key Facts
Usually, insect and spider bites and stings cause only mild pain, itching, and swelling at the bite.

Some insect bites can be serious and even fatal if
- The child bitten has a severe allergic reaction to the bite or sting
- Poison (venom) is injected into the child (for example, from a black widow spider or brown recluse spider)

Step 1: Prevent
- Keep children from bothering insects.
- Use insect repellent that is approved for use on children.
- If you know a child has a severe allergy to an insect or bee sting, keep his prescribed epinephrine pen close by at all times.
- Have children wear light-colored clothing that covers the arms and legs when walking or playing in areas where flying insects are likely to be.
- Keep flowering plants and gardens far from where children play.
- Put outdoor toys away so spiders and insects can’t hide inside them.
Step 2: Be Safe

- Make sure the scene is safe.
- Get the first aid kit.
- Wear PPE.

Step 3: Phone 911

Phone 911

- If the child has signs of a severe allergic reaction
- If the child tells you that she has a severe allergic reaction to insect bites or stings
- If the child needs CPR

Step 4: Act

Follow these steps to give first aid to a child with an insect or spider bite or sting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>If the child has a severe allergic reaction to insect bites or stings and has an epinephrine pen, get the pen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | If a bee stung the child:  
  - Look for the stinger. Bees are the only insects that may leave their stingers behind.  
  - Scrape away the stinger and venom sac using something with a dull edge such as a credit card. |
| 3    | Wash the bite or sting area with a lot of running water (and soap, if possible). |
| 4    | Put a bag of ice and water wrapped in a towel or cloth over the bite or sting area for up to 20 minutes. |
| 5    | See if the child needs CPR. If so, give CPR. |
| 6    | Watch the child for at least 30 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction. |

Important

The following are the signs of poisonous spider and scorpion bites and stings. Some of the signs may vary depending on the type of bite or sting. If you see any of these signs, follow the action table above.

- Severe pain at the site of the bite or sting
- Muscle cramps
- Headache
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Lack of response
FYI

With bee stings, make sure you remove the stinger with something flat and dull that won’t squeeze the stinger. Squeezing the venom sac can release more venom (poison).

Marine Bites and Stings

Definitions and Key Facts

Marine fish and animals can bite or sting humans.
- This happens most often in salt water.
- The bites and stings may cause pain, swelling, redness, or bleeding.
- They may also cause infection or an allergic reaction.

Some marine bites and stings can be serious and even fatal if
- The bitten child has a severe allergic reaction to the bite or sting
- Poison (venom) is injected into the child (for example, from a jellyfish, stingray, or stonefish)

Step 1: Prevent

- Use the Child and Infant Safety Checklist to help keep a child safe.
- At the beach, pay attention to signs that warn you about dangerous jellyfish or other marine life.
  - Even dead marine animals can sting you.
  - Avoid touching them with bare hands or skin.

Step 2: Be Safe

- Make sure the scene is safe.
- Get the first aid kit.
- Wear PPE. Always use something to protect your bare skin from touching a biting or stinging marine animal.
- Even if you are wearing PPE, try to avoid touching a biting or stinging marine animal.

Step 3: Phone 911

Phone 911
- If a child has been bitten or stung by a marine animal and has signs of a severe allergic reaction
- If a child was bitten or stung in an area known to have poisonous marine animals
**Step 4: Act**

Follow these steps to help a child with a marine bite or sting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | The following are signs of a poisonous marine bite or sting:  
• Chest pain  
• Cramps  
• Fever  
• Weakness, faintness, or dizziness  
• Nausea or vomiting  
• Numbness or trouble moving parts of the body  
• Severe pain, swelling, or discoloration of area bitten or stung |
| 2    | Keep the child quiet and still. |
| 3    | Wipe off stingers or tentacles with a gloved hand or towel. |
| 4    | Wash off remaining marine animal parts with salt (ocean) water. |
| 5    | If the sting is from a jellyfish, rinse the injured area for at least 30 seconds with lots of vinegar. Then put the part of the body that was stung in hot water. You may also have the child take a shower with water as hot as he can bear, for at least 20 minutes, or as long as pain persists. |

**FYI**
- For all bites and stings that break the skin, see a healthcare provider.
- On jellyfish stings, if vinegar is not available, use a baking soda and water solution instead.
- On jellyfish stings, if hot water is not available, apply dry hot or cold packs for up to 20 minutes instead.

**Ticks**

**Definitions and Key Facts**
- Ticks are found on animals and in wooded areas. They attach themselves to exposed body parts. Many ticks are harmless. Some carry serious diseases.
- If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible. The longer the tick stays attached to a child, the greater the child's chance of catching a disease.

**Step 1: Prevent**
- Children should wear light-colored clothing so you can see the tick more easily later.
- Clothing should cover a child’s arms and legs. Tuck pants into the child’s socks or boots.
- Children should avoid wooded or brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Children should walk in the center of trails.
- Use repellants that contain no more than 30% DEET for children over 2 months of age as long as the label says it is safe for use on children.
Use DEET products only on infants older than 2 months.
Do not use sunscreen with DEET because of the need to reapply sunscreen frequently.

**Step 2: Be Safe**
- Make sure the scene is safe.
- Get the first aid kit.
- Wear PPE.

**Step 3: Phone 911**
Usually, you do not need to phone 911 for a tick bite.

**Step 4: Act**
Follow these steps to help a child with a tick bite:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Find the tick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Grab the tick by its mouth or head as close to the skin as possible with tweezers or a tick-removing device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lift the tick straight out without twisting or squeezing its body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wash the bite with running water (and soap, if available).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>See a healthcare provider if you are in an area where tick-borne diseases occur. If possible, place the tick in a plastic bag and give it to the healthcare provider.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important**
- If you lift the tick until the child’s skin tents and wait for several seconds, the tick may let go.
- Some people have heard about other ways to remove a tick. The correct way to remove a tick is to follow the actions in the table.