Bite Buster's Bug Time Stories

Written and illustrated by Joe Sutliff
Developed by the Fairfax County Health Department
The Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP) was established in 2003 to monitor and control mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Fairfax County. Since then, it has expanded to include ticks and tick-borne diseases. The mission of the program is threefold: vector and disease surveillance, vector management and control as well as community education and outreach activities.

The program's goal is to minimize the impact of mosquito and tick-borne diseases with an integrated approach to pest management.

DCIP Team
Program Supervisor:
Jorge Arias, Ph.D.

Biologists:
Joshua Smith, M.S.
Sonya Graves
Christopher Eliff

Support Staff:
Ada Garcia-Ayala

Outreach Coordinator:
Carl Sivertsen

Copyright © 2016 by Fairfax County, Virginia. All rights reserved.
Customization and printing of this publication are made available through the American Mosquito Control Association. Please visit their web site: www.mosquito.org/books-a-merchandise for more information.
Their teacher had a surprise for them when the children came in from the bus that morning. “I have invited a special guest to class today,” she told them. “He should be here any minute now.” Just then a tall hero in yellow, orange and red marched into the room. “Bite Buster!” they all shouted with delight.
“Good morning everyone!” said Bite Buster. “I’ve brought my new storybook to read to you this morning!”
The girls and boys quickly gathered for reading time.
“All right, let’s see... how about the Three Little Pigs?”
“Oh, that’s one of my favorites!” said Maria.
“Good!” said Bite Buster. “It all begins with...”
Once upon a time there were three little pigs who lived in three little houses. The first little pig lived in a house made of straw. The second little pig lived in a house of sticks. The third little pig lived in a house of bricks.
One hot summer day a Big Bad Swarm of mosquitoes buzzed into town. When they got to the first little pig’s house, they saw that there were no screens to keep them out. All the mosquitoes flew inside and tried to bite the little pig. The little pig ran out of the house and to her sister, who lived in the house of sticks.
When the Big Bad Swarm arrived at the second little pig’s house, they saw many places where water collected. There were containers all over the yard filled with leaves and stagnant water. The swarm began to lay their eggs at once.
While the mosquitoes were busy laying their eggs, the two little pigs snuck out of the house of sticks and ran to their sister who lived in the house of bricks.
When they arrived at the third little pig’s house, she told them not to worry. She showed her sisters what to do to stop mosquitoes around her house.

- Keep screens over windows and doors in good repair
- Remove or reposition corrugated pipes so they do not trap water
- Tip and toss water from containers around the yard
inside or find water to lay their eggs. Disappointed and hungry, the Big Bad Swarm flew off to the woods in search of a meal. The two little pigs thanked their sister and went home to make their houses and yards mosquito-free.

The End!
“So the lesson of the story is to stop mosquitoes BEFORE they come to your house,” said Luke.
“Right!” said Bite Buster. “I call that ‘Attention to Prevention!’ Now, are you ready for the next story?”
Once upon a time there was a land of giants where tiny ticks crawled on long, lush stalks of grass. They would wait there, legs waving, for a giant to wander by so they could grab on and look for a place to bite.
Some of the ticks lived near the house of a family of giants. Inside the house, the mom asked her son to help her in the yard.

“Jack, can you please mow the lawn?”

“Sure, Mom,” he replied.
As Jack the Giant passed by, the tiny ticks waved their legs in excitement. “FEE FI FO FUM, we smell the blood of a giant one!” shouted the ticks.
“Jack, come back!” called his mother. “There might be ticks! You need to change clothes and wear repellent.” The ticks grumbled as Jack the Giant turned around and went back inside.
When Jack came outside again the ticks rubbed their legs with glee. They were in for a surprise, however, because Jack had on long, light-colored pants that were tucked into his socks. The ticks tried to grab onto Jack, but they did not want to stay on for long. “Oh, no!” said a tick. “He must be wearing bug spray that has DEET!”
“FEE FI FO PHOOEY!” said the ticks as Jack mowed down the stalks of grass. Soon the lawn was cut nice and short. The ticks grumbled and groaned, and one by one they went off into the woods.

The End!
“So the giant was the good guy!” said Leah.
“Yes he was! You children are smart!” said Bite Buster. “Now here is a good story about another smart little girl!”
Once upon a time Little Red Riding Hood was walking through the woods on her way to her Grandmother’s house when she encountered the Big Bad Swarm.
“Where are you going, little girl?” asked the thirsty mosquitoes.
“I’m on my way to Grandma’s house!” answered Little Red Riding Hood.
“My, what big wings you have!” said Little Red Riding Hood.
“The better to chase you with, my dear!” said the mosquitoes.
“My, what a big proboscis you have!” said Little Red Riding Hood.
“The better to bite you with!” cried the mosquitoes.
As the Big Bad Swarm flew towards Little Red Riding Hood, they saw that she was wearing long, loose, light clothing under her cape. When they got closer, they could tell that Little Red Riding Hood was wearing repellent. “Bah! Let’s get out of here!”
A little further on, Little Red Riding Hood saw some ticks in the tall grass by the trail. “My, what long legs you have!” said the little girl. “The better to grab on as you walk by,” said the ticks, and they waited for her to come closer.
But when Little Red Riding Hood walked by, she stayed in the center of the path, away from the tall grass where the ticks were hiding. The ticks also noticed that she had her pants tucked into her socks which made it harder for them to get onto her skin.
Little Red Riding Hood continued on her way, protected by her “Attention to Prevention.” Soon a big bad wolf being chased by mosquitoes came running through the grass and the ticks grabbed onto him.
When Little Red Riding Hood got to Grandma’s house, she told Grandma about the mosquitoes and ticks. “I’m glad you protected yourself!” said Grandma. “But don’t forget—it’s always a good idea to check for ticks after spending time outdoors!”

_The End!_
“Well, kids,” said Bite Buster, “story time is over.”
“Thanks, Bite Buster! You have a funny way of telling fairy tales, but we sure learned a lot about mosquitoes and ticks!”
“You’re welcome, children! Just remember, your ‘Attention to Prevention’ will help keep mosquitoes and ticks away!”
...and they all lived Healthily Ever After.