Insect Repellents for Children

Insect repellents should be used along with protective clothing. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that a 30 percent concentration is safe for both children and adults, but that 10 percent can be used for children if parents are concerned about the potential risks or if the threat of disease-carrying mosquitoes is small. Those that have a high concentration (more than 10%) of DEET should not be used on an infant’s skin because they are toxic. Spray repellents that are designed to be used on clothing only should not be used on your child’s skin. The table below lists some insect repellents found in the U.S. and their ingredients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant-Based Repellants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bite Blocker (geranium oil)</td>
<td>Consep, Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repel (Oil of lemon Eucalyptus)</td>
<td>Wisconsin Pharmacal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avon Skin-so-soft Bug Guard spray (citronella 0.10%)</td>
<td>Avon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repellents with DEET</td>
<td>% DEET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skedaddle for Children</td>
<td>Minnetonka 6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skedaddle for Children with sunscreen SPF 15</td>
<td>Minnetonka 6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off! Skintastic for Kids spray</td>
<td>Johnson Wax 5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutter All Family Insect spray</td>
<td>United Industries 7.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutter Pleasant Protection with sunscreen SPF 15</td>
<td>United Industries 7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repel Camp Lotion for Kids</td>
<td>Wisconsin Pharmacal 10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repel Soft Unscented Gel</td>
<td>Wisconsin Pharmacal 7.0</td>
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In 2001 the Environmental Protection Agency made the following recommendations regarding the safe use of insect repellent with DEET for children:

- Do not apply to infants under two months of age. (Skin permeability becomes similar to adult by the second month of life.)
- Read and follow all directions and precautions on the product label.
- Do not apply over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Do not apply to young children's hands or near eyes or mouth.
- Do not allow young children to apply products themselves.
- Use just enough to cover the exposed skin and/or clothing.
- Do not use under clothing.
- Avoid over-application.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water.
- Wash treated clothing before wearing again.
• Do not use spray solutions in enclosed areas or near food.
• For use on face, apply to adult hands and then rub on face. Do not spray face. Avoid areas around eyes and mouth.

**Repellents with Picaridin (KBR3023)**
Cutter Advance Sport Insect Repellent  
*United Industries*

**Permethrin Insecticide Sprays (For clothing only! Not applied to skin)**
Cutter Outdoorsman Gear Guard Spray  
*Cutter*
Repel Permanone  
*Wisconsin Pharmacal*

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Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person’s health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 2016 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#6485.