Bee Stings

Pre-reading

Questions:

• What do you know about bee stings?
• What should you do if you or your child gets a bee sting?

Definitions:

• Avoid – to stay away from
• Hives – red bumps on the body caused by an allergy

Reading

When it’s sunny and warm, people love to spend time outside. Sadly, spending time outdoors can mean the risk of a bee sting. Most stings are caused by yellow jackets; but bees, wasps and hornets can all sting.

To avoid bee stings, shoes should always be worn outside. It is best to wear dull or light color clothing. Bees like bright colors. Children should not play near flowers.

If you or your child get stung, there are some things you should do:

1. Look for the stinger. If you see the black dot, scrape it off but do not try to squeeze it out of the skin.
2. Rub the sting with a cotton ball that has baking soda and water on it for 20 minutes.
3. If the sting still hurts, put ice on it for 10 minutes.
4. Pain reliever can be taken right away.

Usually the pain from a sting stops in a couple hours. The place of the sting may be swollen for 24 hours. Call a doctor if the swelling lasts more than one day or if it is very painful. If someone is stung many times, he may have diarrhea or vomit. He may also have a headache or fever.

If a sting causes an allergic reaction, it will be hard to breathe or swallow. This person may also pass out or get hives. If this happens, call 911 right away. For some people bee stings can be fatal. Get help quickly if you think it is needed.

Source: Your Child’s Health, written by B.D. Schmitt, M.D. Level 3.0
Understanding

1. What causes most stings? What else can sting? _______________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. When should a doctor be called for a sting? When should 911 be called? ________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

3. How can bee stings be avoided? __________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

4. What should be done to treat a bee sting? (List at least two things.) ______________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the word “fatal” mean? ______________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

Writing

Option A: Retell the reading in your own words.

Option B: Write about a bee sting you have experienced.

Option C: What new information have you learned? How will you use it?