

Creating safe play spaces in rural areas

- Designate a safe play area. Fencing is best, but if that's not possible, set up boundaries such as "stay between _____" or "Don't go past _____"
- Drain any stagnant/standing water. That's where mosquitos breed. Have children wear insect repellent.
- Keep the grass mowed, making it more difficult for children to get ticks on them. Eliminate poisonous plants, stinging insects and ticks from play areas. Teach children to identify these hazards and stay away.
- Make it a routine to wear sunscreen any time they are outdoors.
- Remove any debris such as wood piles and equipment where snakes and rodents can hide.
- Check play areas for and remove any glass, sharp metal, rocks and broken concrete.
- Lock cars parked nearby to prevent children from playing in or around them.
- When children are old enough to explore the area outside their designated play area, have them take a buddy or carry a cell phone.