



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Stinging & Biting Insects By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services



As the temperatures hit their peak and we work or play outside more, safety from biting and stinging insects is a topic that deserves discussion. Besides the annoyance of insect bites and stings, it's important to remember that many diseases can be transmitted by them. One bite from an infected mosquito could cause a range of viruses, including Zika, Dengue Fever, and the West Nile virus. Of course, ticks are carriers of Lyme Disease.

Whether working or enjoying leisure time, you can protect yourself by:

- Checking Your Destination and activities to determine what steps you need to take to protect yourself from bug bites. Check CDC Destinations pages to see what vaccines or medicines you may need and what diseases or health risks are a concern at your destination.
- Using clothing that covers hands, arms, legs, and other exposed areas.

- Checking sources of standing water (and getting rid of them) as mosquitos can lay eggs there.
- Using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the active ingredients below. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective. If also using sunscreen, always apply insect repellent after sunscreen.
 - DEET
 - Picaridin
 - IR3535
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)
 - Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
 - 2-undecanone
- Avoiding the use of perfumes and scented soaps. The sweet scents attract some insects.
- Washing any skin that has insect repellent on it when going back indoors.
- Investigating any outdoor areas which you plan to occupy. It is better to discover and address any stinging or biting insects in the area before it is occupied.
- Exercising caution when using insecticide sprays. Ensure there is adequate ventilation in the area of use and remain upwind of the area being sprayed to avoid being doused.
- Carrying an adrenaline injector such as EpiPen® or Anapen® if you are at risk of a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Always have a means of calling for medical assistance such as a mobile telephone.
- Remembering your pets, too. Your four-legged family members can be carriers for these biting insects, introducing them into areas they may not normally be. Pets can also get diseases from insects. Make sure to bring and use your pet's flea and tick repellants.

August 2026

Back To School

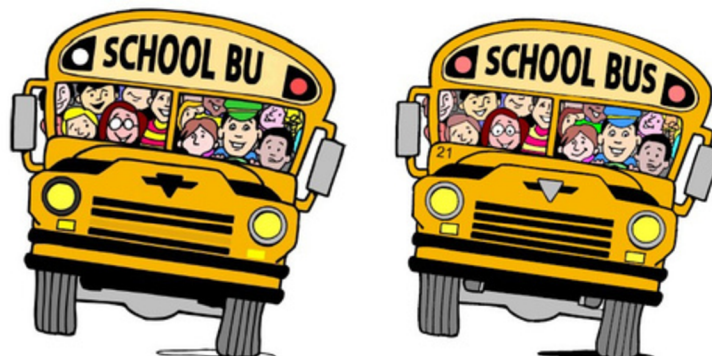
Getting ready for back-to-school season doesn't have to be stressful. With a little planning and organization, you can make the transition from summer to structured school days smooth for the whole family.

- Shop early for supplies.
- Reset sleep schedules gradually.
- Organize a dedicated homework space where your child can focus on schoolwork.
- Plan meals and snacks ahead of time.
- Create a family calendar. Sync school events, sports practices, and activities in one place so nothing sneaks up on you.
- Label backpacks, water bottles, lunchboxes, and clothing, especially for younger kids who tend to misplace things.
- Practice early morning routine, from breakfast to backpack checks, so mornings run smoothly.
- Sort through last year's clothes, donate what doesn't fit, and make a list of what's needed before shopping for new items.

Spot The Difference

It's that time of year again. Back to School! Time to get your brain back in the swing of endless homework. You can challenge your mind by finding the differences between these two pictures. You need a keen eye and attention to detail to spot all **20** differences.

Get ready....Get Set...GO!





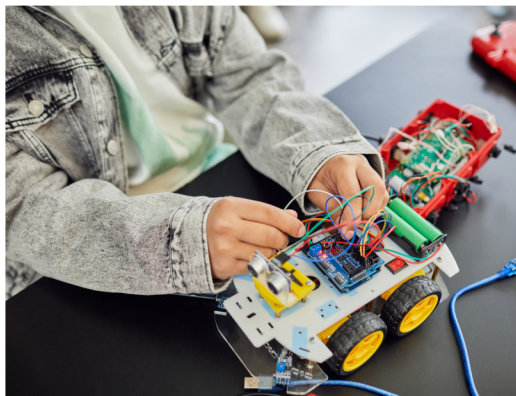
Nurturing Every Child's God-Given Gift

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D

Education has always played a significant part in my life. First as a student, then as an educator, and now to my days thinking about how young people can successfully transition from the classroom into careers that truly align with their passions. Along the way, I discovered something I still believe with my whole heart: teaching and helping people find work are really the same calling. Both come down to the same question: Are you matching a person's interests and talents to a meaningful career, and are you willing to help them build the skills to get there?

If there's one thing my years in education have taught me, it is this: every child walks into a classroom carrying something special. A gift. A leaning. A way of seeing the world that's already theirs before anyone teaches them a thing. Some children light up over a book. Others light up over a wrench, a garden bed, a newborn calf or performing in school plays. I watched it happen year after year, and I'll tell you plainly; the children whose gifts got noticed and nurtured early were the ones who grew into confident, capable adults. Recognizing a child's natural talent isn't a small thing. It may be the most important job any of us will ever have.

I've watched children who could fix anything mechanically get steered toward subjects that bored them to tears, simply because nobody thought to ask what they were good at. A child who loves animals and has a gift for caring for them may be looking at a future as a veterinary



technician or a livestock and herd health specialist. A child who's always building, taking things apart, and figuring out how they work, may be a future industrial technician, a construction project manager, or an engineer who never would have found that path if someone hadn't first noticed the gift and then nurtured it.

Our job as parents, grandparents, and employers isn't to pick the path for a child. It's to pay attention to see what they're already drawn to, and then to make sure they have a real road map to build a good life on it. Whether that road runs through a university, a technical college, an arts academy, or an apprenticeship.

Tommy understood this from the very beginning. When he founded Lofton Staffing in 1979, he believed that every person carries a unique set of talents, and that our job is to match those talents to the right task, the right team, the right

opportunity. To really get to know each person and connect them to work that fits who they are, not just what's open on a list. That belief is still at the center of everything we do today. It's why "People First, People Driven" isn't just something we say, it's the standard we hold ourselves to every single day. As General George Patton once said, *"Tell others what you want done, not how to do it, and they will amaze you with their ingenuity."*

Every year I taught, I saw a child's gift sitting right there in plain sight, waiting on someone to notice it. The families who raised me didn't have much, but they had eyes to see what each child was good at, and they built on it instead of fighting it. That's still the best advice I know how to give — whether I'm standing in a classroom or sitting across the desk from a parent. Notice what they're drawn to. If it's building, encourage the building. If it's animals, encourage the animals. If it's numbers, words, or fixing things nobody else can fix, encourage that too.

Every young person should have the opportunity to develop their true interests. Our role is to observe, encourage generously, and support them as they grow into it. Remember, work is more natural than play - so be sure your child pursues a career that not only makes them happy but has fun doing it! Afterall, life is a temporary assignment, so do what you do for the joy of it! Embrace the journey of discovery and let curiosity be your guide.

In this rapidly changing world, adaptability and creativity are more valuable than ever. By fostering these qualities, we prepare young minds not just for a single career, but for a lifetime of learning and growth. Let's inspire them to dream big, to believe in their God-given gifts, and to understand that their unique contributions have the power to make a meaningful impact.

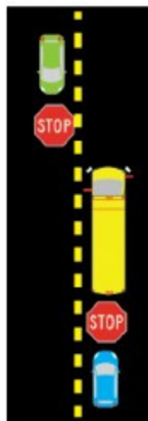
Open Enrollment Notice

Open enrollment dates for major medical will be announced soon. Be on the lookout for the email and text communication regarding dates and materials.



School Bus Traffic Safety

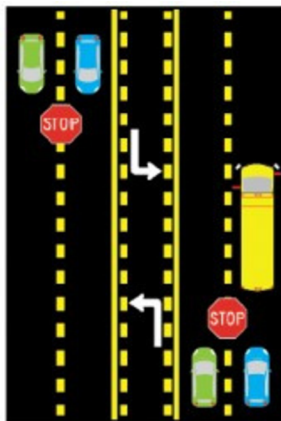
Back to school means school buses on the roads. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. Here are the rules when it comes to buses:



TWO LANE

TWO-LANE ROADWAY:
When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from **BOTH** directions must **STOP**.

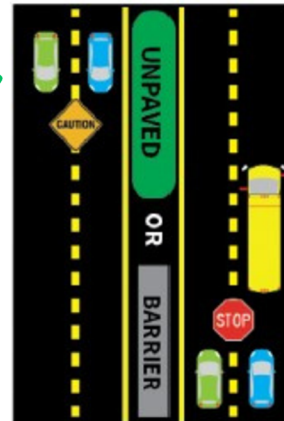
TWO-LANE ROADWAY WITH A CENTER TURN LANE:
When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from **BOTH** directions must **STOP**.



MULTI-LANE PAVED ACROSS

FOUR-LANE ROADWAY W/O A MEDIAN BARRIER:
When school bus stops for passengers, **ALL** traffic from **BOTH** directions must **STOP**.

DIVIDED HIGHWAY OF FOUR OR MORE LANES WITH A MEDIAN BARRIER:
When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic **FOLLOWING** the bus must **STOP**.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY