Hey Kids,

Food safety is important for you and your family. That’s why you should always remember to Be Food Safe! It is easy and fun to do if you follow these four simple steps.

1. **Clean.** Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
2. **Separate.** Keep raw meat and poultry apart from foods that won’t be cooked.
3. **Cook.** Use a food thermometer — you can’t tell food is cooked safely by how it looks.
4. **Chill.** Chill leftovers and takeout foods within 2 hours and keep the fridge at 40 °F or below.

USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) developed this activity booklet to help you learn what you need to do to Be Food Safe! Remember, fighting foodborne illness is important for you and your family, so Be Food Safe each and every day.

To find out more about food safety, visit befoodsafety.gov or ...

Visit **ASK KAREN** at askkaren.gov

Call the **USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline**
1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)
BAC (foodborne bacteria) can be hiding just about anywhere: in your kitchen, on your plate and even on your hands!

The invisible enemy can multiply and make you sick. But you can Fight BAC!® by following these important rules:

- Wash your hands and surfaces often.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables with running tap water before you eat them.
- Wash your hands:
  - Before you make or eat a snack or meal,
  - After playing with pets, and
  - After using the bathroom.
- Always use clean knives, forks, spoons and plates.
- Always use a clean plate. Cooked foods should not be placed on the same plate that held raw meat, poultry or fish.
- Only put food on clean surfaces. Never put your sandwiches or snacks on a dirty table or counter.
- Put backpacks and books on the floor. Don’t put them on the kitchen table or counters.

**Crossword Clues**

**DOWN**
1. Place your ______ on the floor, not on the kitchen counter or table.
2. Always use clean knives, spoons, plates and ______.
3. Use cold water to wash fruits and ______.

**ACROSS**
4. Place ______ foods on a clean plate.
5. Wash your hands with warm water and ______.
6. Counters should be ______ before you put food on them.
7. Wash your hands after playing with ______.
Cross-contamination is the scientific word for how bacteria can be spread from one food product to another. This is especially true when handling raw meat, poultry, eggs and seafood, so keep these foods and their juice away from ready-to-eat foods!

Right now there may be an invisible enemy ready to strike. He’s called BAC (bacteria) and he can make you sick. But you have the power to Fight BAC!® Be Smart. Keep Foods Apart – Don’t Cross-Contaminate! Here are some things that you and your parents can do to Fight BAC!®

- Keep raw meat and poultry apart from foods that won’t be cooked.
- Wash hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds.
- Always wash cutting boards, dishes and utensils with hot, soapy water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry, eggs and seafood.
- Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry and seafood.

**WORD BANK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAW MEAT</th>
<th>BACTERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH HANDS</td>
<td>POULTRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEAN PLATE</td>
<td>Counters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOT WATER</td>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SICK</td>
<td>SAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOAPY</td>
<td>SEAFOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPARATE</td>
<td>CUTTING BOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIGHT</td>
<td>CROSS CONTAMINATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hey kids, did you know that BAC (foodborne bacteria) can’t be seen, smelled or tasted and can make you sick. You can help your parents to Fight BAC!® by reminding them of these important safe cooking tips.

- Use a food thermometer – you can’t tell food is cooked safely by how it looks.
- Always cook food to a safe minimum internal temperature.
  - Beef, lamb, and veal steaks, roasts and chops to 145 °F.
  - Chicken and turkey – whole, pieces or ground to 165 °F.
  - Ground beef, including hamburgers, to 160 °F.
  - Reheat leftovers to 165 °F.
- Always place the food thermometer in the thickest part of the food, away from bone and fat to check the temperature.
- When cooking in a microwave oven, stir, cover, and rotate food for even cooking. Use a food thermometer to check the temperature in the food in several places.
- Let food sit for a few minutes after cooking it in the microwave.
- Always cook eggs before eating them. When cooked, eggs should be firm, not runny.

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**Kids, unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered boxes to other boxes at the bottom with the same number to find the secret message.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clue Word</th>
<th>Numbered Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOFO</td>
<td>5 7 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETERTAUREM</td>
<td>9 13 16 12 17 1 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOOC</td>
<td>6 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FASE</td>
<td>2 4 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LENCA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUMREHGAN</td>
<td>10 15 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer key: DOFO-FOOD, PETERTAUREM-TEMPERATURE, KOOC-COOK, FASE-SAFE, LENCA-CLEAN, BUMREHGAN-HAMBURGER

SECRET MESSAGE - USE A FOOD THERMOMETER
Keeping cold foods cold is one of the most important rules you can follow to help Fight BAC!® To make sure you are keeping your food safe at all times, check out these other ways you can Fight BAC!®

- Chill leftovers and takeout foods within 2 hours and keep the fridge at 40 °F or below.
- Some foods that need to stay cold include:
  - Sandwiches or salads made with meat and poultry;
  - Tuna and egg salad;
  - Milk, cheese, and yogurt;
  - Peeled or cut fruits and vegetables.
- Use an insulated lunch box or bag to keep food cold at school.
- Keep your lunch in the coolest place possible. Never leave it in direct sun.
- Add a frozen gel pack, frozen juice box, or use a thermos to keep food cold.

Kids, start at the star and connect the dots to reveal the hidden image.
Thermy™ Rules!

1. Always use a food thermometer when you cook.
   A food thermometer will help you make sure your food has reached a high enough temperature to kill harmful bacteria, and viruses.

2. The color of cooked meat—whether it’s pink or brown inside—can fool you.
   The only way to be sure cooked food is safe to eat is by using a food thermometer.

3. Place the thermometer in the thickest part of the food, away from any bones and fat.

4. Cook food to a safe minimum internal temperature.
   - 145 °F—Beef, lamb, and veal steaks, roasts and chops.
   - 165 °F—Chicken and turkey – whole, pieces or ground. Stuffing and casseroles. Reheat leftovers.

5. Check the temperature in several places to be sure the food is cooked evenly.

6. Wash the food thermometer with hot, soapy water after using it.

befoodsafe.gov
United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Remember: YOU have the power to **Fight BAC!®**
and keep your food safe!

Kids, unscramble each of the four ways to keep food safe.

- nalec
  __________________

- ckoo
  __________________

- liclh
  __________________

- apretase
  __________________

Then match the unscrambled word to the correct food safety messenger.
**BAC-Catcher Game**

**Folding Instructions**
1. Cut along the dotted line.
2. Place the BAC-Catcher face down. Fold 2 corners together to form a triangle. Crease and unfold. Now fold the other 2 corners together, crease and unfold.
3. Now, fold each corner to the center point.
4. Turn the folded paper over and fold each corner into the center.
5. Fold the square in half. Unfold it and fold it in half the other way.
6. Using both hands, place your thumbs and index fingers under the flaps.

**How to play**
- This game is for 2 players. Ask the other player to pick one of the printed squares – for example, “Hot Stuff.”
- Open and close the BAC-Catcher in an alternating direction for each letter of the phrase H O T S T U F F (8 times).
- Ask the question closest to the phrase chosen and let the other player answer. Lift the flap to find the answer.
- Now give the BAC-Catcher to the other player. It's your turn to answer.
- Alternate asking and answering until all the questions are answered... everyone wins by learning about FOOD SAFETY.