The cicadas are coming soon!

A Social Narrative

Created by: Celia Schloemer, MA
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics & UCCEDD
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
People who live in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and other states are talking a lot about bugs these days!
The kind of bugs that people are talking about are called cicadas.
We know they are coming, because they come every 17 years.

The last time the cicadas were here was in the year 2004.
Cicada babies, or larvae, grow underground. They stay under the dirt until the temperature of the dirt warms up to around 64 degrees.
When the cicadas are fully developed and warm, they come up to the surface where we can see them.
They stick to a tree, bush or branch up high where they are safe from birds & other animals.
They spend time in the sun, shed their exoskeleton (or outside shell), and dry out their wings.
Oh, and they SING!

Their song can be very loud!!

Click here to hear what they sound like

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPngbHs4PBY
Their song is loud because it is not just a few cicadas that come out of the ground, but lots of cicadas!
I can wear a hat, or headphones to quiet the noise. Or maybe I can find something to do inside.
The cicadas may land on me and that is okay. I can brush them off me if I want.
The cicadas will not hurt me, my family, my friends, or my pets. They do not bite or sting!
I will see cicadas on tree trunks and branches. I will see them on sidewalks and streets. I might even step on exoskeletons when I walk outside!
I might even see cicadas on my friends but my friends will be okay!
Sometimes it will feel like the cicadas are everywhere but I will be okay!

The cicadas will be almost gone sometime in July!!
It will be a summer of “cicada adventures”!

Please share your adventures on our Facebook page! @UcUcedd
Additional cicada resources:

1. An additional CCHMC cicada story: [Cicadas](#)

2. Smartphone mapping app: [Cicada Safari](#)