

**Merrimack Valley Pediatrics**  
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**Advice for Parents of Children with Tick Bites**

- ❖ Removal of ticks should be done with a gloved hand.
- ❖ The tick is best removed using a fine tweezers, close to the skin and gently pulling straight out avoiding twisting motions.
- ❖ Try to remove the entire tick by grasping as close to the skin as possible.
- ❖ Retained parts of the tick rarely cause infection, contact your doctor if redness appears at the area.
- ❖ Carefully wash the area and your hands as well.
- ❖ Analysis of ticks for Lyme disease is not recommended because it is not reliable in predicting whether the individual will develop Lyme disease.
- ❖ Only deer ticks (sized 1-3 millimeters in size) can carry Lyme disease but not all of these ticks carry the disease.
- ❖ Even a tick with Lyme disease is unlikely to transmit the disease if it is attached for less than 1 ½ days. Check your child daily.
- ❖ The common dog tick ( 4-10 millimeters) isn't known to carry Lyme disease
- ❖ Parents wishing to have the tick tested can make arrangements through the following company:
  - Analytical Services of Vermont
  - 1-800-723-4432, option 44
  - Fee is about \$75.00 per tick
- ❖ Fever, rash, muscle aches, headaches and joint pain typically occur 3-5 weeks after a tick bite as signs/symptoms of early Lyme disease.  
**Call your doctor if these symptoms occur.**