

## **FEATURE – USDA TEACHES CHILDREN ABOUT FOOD SAFETY**

INTRO: The U-S-D-A is hoping to teach children food safety lessons that they will take back home. The U-S-D-A's Bob Ellison has more. (1:51)

CHILDREN AT A U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION CAMP NEAR WASHINGTON D-C LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING HARMFUL BACTERIA OFF OF FOOD.

Devon Smith, student: I learned that you should wash your hands before and after you cook something. And before you cook something you should wash your hands because you never know what you touch because different things have germs on it.

THE CAMP ORGANIZED BY U-S-D-A'S FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE COMBINED FUN AND LESSONS ABOUT PROPER FOOD HANDLING.

Ed Schafer, Agriculture Secretary: At this age these fourth graders get an opportunity to learn about bacteria, how to deal with it, food safety, food preparation and the simple things they can do like washing their hands, which will help keep them healthy for a long period of time.

They're curious. It's fun. They're looking in a microscope. They're looking at bacteria. It's something that is interesting to them right now.

THE CHILDREN LEARNED FOUR SIMPLE FOOD SAFETY STEPS. KEEP HANDS, UTENSILS AND SURFACES CLEAN. USE SEPARATE PLATES AND CUTTING BOARDS, SO JUICES FROM RAW FOODS DON'T CONTAMINATE COOKED FOODS. COOK MEAT AND POULTRY TO SAFE INTERNAL TEMPERATURES MEASURED WITH A THERMOMETER. ONE SIXTY FOR GROUND BEEF. ONE SIXTY FIVE FOR POULTRY. AND CHILL LEFT-OVERS PROMPTLY. U-S-D-A OFFICIALS HOPED THE CHILDREN TOOK THE LESSONS HOME WITH THEM TO TEACH ADULTS.

Al Almanza, Administrator, USDA FSIS: Certainly talking to their family and talking to their parents about food safety issues.

Kathy Byrd, Parent: I didn't know that the temperature was supposed to be one sixty five. I just always cooked it until it was done.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO ONLINE TO:

Little kid: w-w-w dot ask Karen dot gov and ask all the questions you need about food safety.

OR CALL ONE EIGHT EIGHT EIGHT M-P HOTLINE. FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON