

free spirit

PUBLISHING®



Meeting kids' social & emotional needs since 1983

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For Immediate Release!

## Help Kids Fight the Flu with Clear and Kid-Friendly Messages

With the addition of the H1N1 virus to this flu season, good hygiene is more important than ever. Free Spirit Publishing's award-winning **GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING** books teach kids the basics to keep sickness at bay.

### Contact

Jenni Bowring  
612.746.6848  
[bowring@freespirit.com](mailto:bowring@freespirit.com)

### Praise for **GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING**:

"Hits the bulls-eye with an important message to all children. Bravo! Well done!"—Philip M. Tierno Jr., Ph.D., author of *The Secret Life of Germs*, and Director of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology, New York Medical Center

"This book should be included in every pediatrician's and family physician's waiting room and at every childcare center, preschool, and early elementary school."—Joseph J. Sockalosky, M.D., Director of Medical Education, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

"An excellent job getting kids to focus on handwashing, a key building block in overall public health awareness."—Jerry Bowman, NSF International's Scrub Club Program for Kids



Board Book for ages baby–preschool



Paperback for ages 4–7

Minneapolis, MN—Sneezes, coughs, runny noses, spills, and messes are a fact of everyday life with children. No parent wants to see his or her child get sick. Plus, a child's illness quickly unravels schedules, disrupts classrooms, and compels parents to miss work. That's why it's never too soon to teach little ones about germs and ways to stay clean and healthy.

Two classic books from Free Spirit Publishing by Elizabeth Verdick and illustrated by Marieka Heinlen show kids and toddlers how to get rid of pesky germs and keep them from spreading.

The **GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING** board book (\$7.95) is for the baby and preschool set. Rather than focus on what germs are, this book teaches the basics of not spreading them: how to turn away and cover up a sneeze or cough, blow kisses when sick instead of making contact, and most of all, wash those hands!

**GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING** (paperback, \$11.95) helps kids ages 4 to 7 understand what germs are, what they can do, and why it's so important to cover them up, block them from spreading, and wash them down the drain. Simple words and full-color illustrations show real-life situations kids can relate to.

Whether at home, on the playground, at childcare, or at preschool, kids everywhere need to get the message that although not all germs are bad, they're still not for sharing.

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### **GERMS ARE NOT FOR SHARING**

by Elizabeth Verdick

illustrated by Marieka Heinlen

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### Board Book

ISBN 978-1-57542-196-4 ● \$7.95 ● board book ● 24 pp. ● color illust.  
● 7" x 7" ● ages baby–preschool

### Paperback

ISBN 978-1-57542-197-1 ● \$11.95 ● softcover ● 40 pp. ● color illust.  
● 9" x 9" ● ages 4–7



### **About the Author**

Elizabeth Verdick is the author of more than 30 highly acclaimed books for children and teenagers, including books in the Toddler Tools board book series, the Best Behavior series for young children, and the Laugh & Learn™ series for preteens. Her most recent titles include *Diapers Are Not Forever* and *See You Later, Procrastinator!* (with Pamela Espeland). Elizabeth lives with her husband, daughter, and son near St. Paul, Minnesota.



### **About the Illustrator**

Marieka Heinlen received her BFA at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and also studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. She launched her career as an award-winning children's book illustrator with the best-selling *Hands Are Not for Hitting*. As a freelance illustrator and designer, Marieka focuses her work on books and other materials for children, teens, parents, and teachers. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her husband and children.



### **About Free Spirit Publishing ([www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com))**

Meeting kids' social & emotional needs since 1983

Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Free Spirit is the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social and emotional health. Free Spirit's mission is to help children and teens think for themselves, succeed in life, and make a difference in the world.