

Safety Notes & Age Guide

Keeping ant keeping safe, calm and rewarding for every age

Simple safety notes

- Keep the colony enclosed in its proper setup at all times to prevent escapes.
- Wash hands after handling food, substrate or the outworld.
- Keep the setup out of direct sunlight and away from radiators — never make sudden temperature changes.
- Young children should observe with an adult nearby.
- Some species can give a small nip or spray formic acid — choose a beginner-safe species to start.
- Never release non-native ants outdoors. Keep them as pets only.

Age suitability guide

Age	Role	What it looks like
3–5	With an adult	Watching and wonder. Supervised observation of a sealed, established colony — no handling.
6–9	Guided keeper	Daily observing and recording with light adult help. An ideal first living-science project.
10–13	Independent	Confident keeping — feeding, charting and caring for the colony with minimal help.
14+	Hobbyist	Full hobby depth — species choice, colony expansion and serious long-term study.

What does ant keeping teach?

- **Biology:** life cycles, castes and brood stages observed in real time.
- **Focus & patience:** calm, absorbing observation — a favourite for many neurodivergent learners.
- **Responsibility:** gentle daily routines build empathy and care for living things.
- **Scientific method:** observe, record, question and predict.

Setting up ants for a class or your family?

We help schools, teachers and home educators choose the right beginner-safe setup. Get in touch at bestantsuk.com/contact-8