



Toddler Lands Best Catch to Win Photo Contest

The snapshot of Abigail Miller's bright eyes and wide smile speaks volumes: "Look, I caught a fish, all by myself. Isn't it beautiful?" In fact, that sunny Saturday this April, 2 ½ year-old Abigail caught 16 bluegill fish, outdoing her older brothers, Clark, 7, and Canaan, 5, who caught six!

A photo of Abigail proudly holding one of the bluegill won May's Focus On Fish Health Photo Contest in the category of *Your Best Catch*. It will be featured on the www.FocusOnFishHealth.org website along with the other monthly winners. Focus On Fish Health is a public awareness project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS).

The Miller family, who live in Indianapolis, were fishing in a retention pond stocked with fish in a park near where their dad, Ryan, works. "Ryan grew up in Canada and loves to fish, so he is always looking for places to take the children where they can enjoy the sport," says mom, Melodi Miller.

Ryan baited the fishing pole with a worm for Abigail each time, but she reeled the fish in by herself, Ms. Miller said. The fish were thrown back after they were caught, but Abigail insisted on petting each one before it went back in the water, she noted.

Whether fishing on a lake, river or pond, the Millers are mindful to respect the environment and "leave things the way we found them," she added. "We are careful to discard all bait and to clean our equipment and gear before using them in other waters so that we are not spreading disease or invasive species."

Contestants can submit photos all summer through August. Go to www.FocusOnFishHealth.org to enter the contest and win prizes. New winners are announced every month.

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