

Early Years Preschool Playful Family Activities

Week of: May 11

Theme: My Home, My Community - Spiders!
(Let's hope they are all outside!)



Arts and Crafts

Practice drawing:

Have your child make 1 or 2 circles for the body. Then draw two small dots for eyes in the circle. Have your child draw 4 lines on each side of the body for legs.

Spiderman! In previous weeks we've drawn family members, but how about a hero? Spiderman needs a head, two eyes...

Play

Build a shelter outside using rocks, sticks, leaves, and dirt for insects or fairies that are looking for a "home". You can use toys from the house for some immediate play time fun but then... see who will move in? Keep a lookout for different creatures that may move in the house overnight or over the next few days - sometimes there are insects, sometimes toads. I wonder what you will find!

Science and Nature

It's time for Bug Camp! Your child will become an entomologist - a scientist who studies bugs. A scientist observes and collects information. So, let's look up, down, and all around for spiders and insects!

Go on a hunt for spiders and insects outside. What kind of bugs do you see? Can you find any spiders? What are they doing?

Let's learn about spiders:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSC0jWISsL4>

Gross Motor (Get Moving)

Spider crawl: Write each letter of your child's name on small pieces of paper. Then spread the letters out around the room. Have your child crawl on his hands and feet to collect each letter, then bring them back and arrange the letters of her name in the correct order.



Fine Motor

Have your child roll some playdough (recipe on back page) into a ball. Then add 4 sticks or pipe cleaners on each side for the legs.

Practice cutting:

Draw a circle on a piece of paper and have your child cut it out. Your child can add eyes and a mouth or decorate as desired. Using sticks, pipe cleaners, or yarn/string, tape or glue 8 legs onto the spider.

Paper Plate Spiderweb:

Write numbers 0-9 in random order around a paper plate. Punch holes or cut a small slit at each number. Take a piece of string, ribbon or shoelace and start at 0. Have your child lace in order 0-9. As they use the string to connect the numbers, they will be creating a web over the plate.

Conscious Discipline/Social Emotional

We've reviewed different types of breathing over the last few weeks. Another way of breathing many children have enjoyed is "Spiderman breathing". Have your child take a deep breath in. As he breathes out, he makes his hands shoot webs. In this way his exhale is like shooting webs out of his hands.

Lots of people are afraid of spiders because they surprise us when we see them. Breathing and being with a loved one can help us return to a state of calm when we are surprised or scared.

Language & Literacy

Spider on the Floor

Using a spider from one of our fine motor/art activities (or your hands):

Watch this video of a Dad and his kids doing :
"There's a Spider on the Floor"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-4cagsEM2A>

Have your child move the spider slowly up his body as the song plays (or yours!).

Spider concepts.

Let's work on spatial concepts by playing hide and seek with your spider. Hide the spider while your child has her eyes closed and then give her a clue about where to find it. The spider could be: under something (ex. Under a chair)

- On top of something (ex. On top of a table)
- Behind something (ex. Behind a toy)
- In front something (ex. In front of the refrigerator)

- Next to something (ex. Next to a blue car)
- Reinforce the words describing **where** the spider was found ("You got it! The spider was behind your toy school bus!")

- If your child is interested, see if he/she can hide the spider and give you clues as to where the spider can be found.

Spider stories online:

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEPYKmlt4dU>

Sensory

In a bucket of water (or the bathtub), act out the story of the "Itsy Bitsy Spider". Using a plastic spider or other small toy to be the spider (a milk or soda cap would do), have your child walk the spider up the side of the tub and rest on top of the faucet ("The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout"). Have your child pour water onto the faucet ("Down came the rain and washed the spider out"). Have your child lift his arms up to make a sun ("Up came the sun and dried up all the rain"). Have your child walk the spider up the side of the tub to the top of the faucet again ("And the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again").

Here's a video of the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3K-KehTLbo>

Math

Children often get a lot of practice counting to 4 and 8 during our spider studies. Spiders have 8 legs, so we often count to 8 as we are drawing legs or adding them to our spider bodies. We also encourage (but don't require) children to put 4 legs on each side.

Draw a large number 8 on a piece of paper (plain or colored). This 8 is the spider's body. Have your child color it in (if they desire). Cut 8 strips of paper and tape or glue the legs to the body, 4 on each side.

Walter's Wonderful Web

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ9MK2zqvOw>-Watch Walter the Spider try to make a web that won't blow away in the wind. Review the basic shapes from the story: circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, and diamonds. Draw each shape for your child. Have your child trace or copy each shape to make a web for Walter.

Online Resources

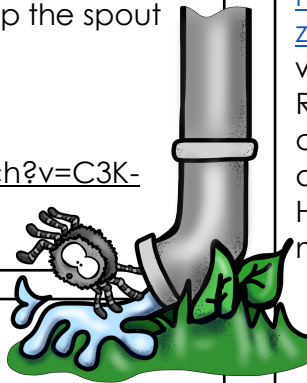
Check us out online for new ideas being posted daily!

- Facebook: Early Years Program @ EarlyYearsredclay
- Instagram: rcearlyyearsprogram
- Website: <https://www.redclayschools.com/eyo>

Cooking/Food fun

Spider Snack

- Use a piece of bread, cracker, or a round slice of an apple for the spider's body.
- Spread peanut butter (or your child's preferred topping on top)
- Add pretzel sticks for legs



We wish you well!

EYP staff realizes this can be a stressful time for both adults and children. Our intention is not to overload families with 'have-to' activities, but to provide opportunities for times of connection throughout the day that can be restorative for everyone. Getting outside to take a walk (maintaining distancing, of course!) is helpful because movement allows us to 'work out' some of the stress in our bodies. Taking moments throughout the day to give your full attention to your child and his/her play and thinking can be so helpful to his/her feeling of safety. Doing easy chores together such as washing dishes, making beds, folding laundry, setting the table, or feeding a pet can help our children feel they are being of service to the family while also being able to spend time with you as you guide them through the chore. Take care, have some fun, and hug those preschoolers for us. We wish you well!

Playdough Recipe

Ingredients:

2 c flour

1 c salt

4 tsp cream of tartar

2 c water

2 T cooking oil

food coloring as desired

Kids and adults: Select the color you want for your playdough and gather the ingredients. Mix wet ingredients together in a large pot. Mix dry ingredients together in a large bowl.

Adults only: On stove, bring wet ingredients to a boil, then take off the stove. In the pot, **carefully** add the dry ingredients to the hot water and mix with a large spoon. When ingredients are mostly mixed together (there will be some lumps of flour) spoon out onto baking tray. Allow a few minutes to cool.

Kids and adults: When warm, but not hot, knead the playdough to fully mix the ingredients. Time to play!

Seal playdough in a container or in a ziplock bag.