

Early Years Preschool Playful Family Activities

Week of: May 18

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



Arts and Crafts

Make a ladybug- Color a coffee filter with red marker, brush or sprinkle with water. When the filter dries completely, use a black marker to add dots, head and eyes.

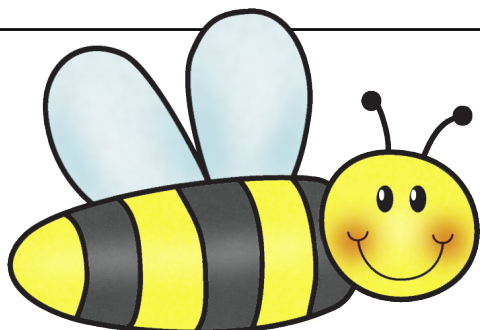
Make a bumblebee- Cover a toilet paper roll with yellow paper or paint. Draw 2 triangles and 1 circle. Have your child cut out the shapes and add for wings and face. Add eyes and mouth.

Play

Being a good observer means looking carefully around you. Play "What's Missing?" with your child. Place two objects in front of your child. Talk about each...what you do with the object, color, size, shape etc. Have your child close their eyes while you remove an item. Can your child remember what is missing? Give a clue to help your child. When your child is successful with 2 items, you can add more.

Science and Nature

Go outside, use tools to dig for bugs. Or, check on the bug/fairy house you might have made last week. Bring a clipboard or notebook and draw what you see.



Gross Motor (Get Moving)

Move like a Bug-

* Take a walk outside. Go on a bug scavenger hunt. Copy the movements of bugs: March like an ant; Buzz like a bee; Fly like a butterfly; Crawl like a caterpillar; Squirm like a worm

* Jump over the Wiggly Worm-Take a jump rope, cord, or scarf and wiggle on the floor. Have your child jump forward over the worm using two feet together.

* Creepy Crawler yoga poses

<https://www.pinkoatmeal.com/insects-bugs-creepy-crawlers-themed-yoga/>

Fine Motor

Ant Farm - Ants dig tunnels that zigzag back and forth as they move up and down the ant hill. To make your own ant tunnel, take a piece of paper and marker and have your child draw their own ant tunnel. Encourage your child to start from the left side and draw across the paper, back and forth in a zig zag pattern. Give your child an example. Next add ants: use dried beans, cereal, or any small object. Have your child place the ants marching on the line. Have your child squeeze a line of glue on the line and attach the ants.

Make a picture full of colorful insects. Have your child practice drawing circles and ovals, then add 6 legs (3 on each side) by making lines. They could add eyes, a mouth, and antenna. What kind of bugs are they? Black ants? Yellow bees? Red ladybugs? Purple ????

Conscious Discipline/Social Emotional

Take some time each day to connect with your child. You could ask:

- What was your favorite part of the today?
- What was 'not' your favorite part?
- How can we make it better for next time?
- How can we do an Act of Kindness today for someone in our family or a friend?

Language & Literacy

Catch a letter

Write each letter of your child's name on a small piece of paper or use magnetic letters. Place the papers or letters out of order on the refrigerator. Name a letter and have your child catch the letter.

Make worms with playdough. They can make worms that are **short, long, curvy, straight, fat, or skinny**. You can also use lots of worms to make letters.

Check out these books on YouTube:

The Very Grouchy

Ladybug: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr3ha03MsK0>

The Very Lonely Firefly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrPyF4Mpl4>

Music

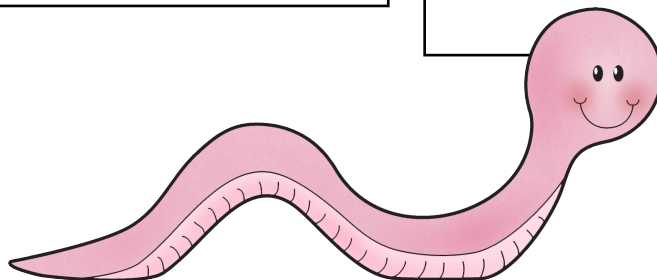
Music:

The Ant, the Bug and the

Bee: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw_NSy8lbyQ

Bumblebee Buzz,

Buzz: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pjw2A3QU8Qg>



Sensory

Mud Writing!

Put mud in a ziplock bag (use dirt, water and shaving cream). Zip the bag closed, making sure any air is pushed out. You may want to tape it shut to prevent accidental openings! Have your child practice writing the letters of their name in through the bag

What's that sound?

There are lots of sounds all around us everyday. Sit in a quiet room. Close your eyes...listen. Name all the different sounds that you hear together with your child. Is it the clock ticking? The faucet dripping? Talk about what you hear. Try sitting outside with your child and do the same. What new sounds do you hear? A bee buzzing, a bird chirping, a car driving by?

Online Resources

Check us out online for new ideas being posted daily!

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

Math

The number 6

Six is a special number when we talk about insects. It's the number of legs insects have - three on each side! Give your child a category of fun things to hunt for...six things that are red, six things that are round. To help your child find only 6 items, cut an egg carton in half so there are 6 cups (or use a 6 hole muffin tin). If you want, label each with a number 1-6. Have your child fill in each cup to find 6 objects and create a set of 6 things.

Try this fun counting song!

The Ants go Marching One by

One <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pjw2A3QU8Qg>

Ladybug spots

Watch this classic video about a Ladybug picnic (who remembers this song?): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX9J7WcYtxI>

Then, cut out a large red circle or use a paper plate. Write numbers 1-9 on small pieces of paper or use from a deck of cards. Take turns with your child, choosing a number and adding spots to the ladybug. Use bottle caps, pennies, or circles.

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!