



## HELLO PARENTS,

Children are naturally curious about and interested in insects. Exploring insects is a great way for them to discover the wonders of nature. Whether children enjoy the beauty of a butterfly or swat away a mosquito, insects are a huge part of our world. These amazing creatures are very beneficial and learning about them will help your child understand their role in the environment. In this newsletter, we offer activities that will encourage your child to discover the world of insects.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

#### INSECTS IN THE BAG

##### MATERIALS:

- Plastic insects
- Gel
- Ziplock bag
- Tape

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Put the gel and plastic insects in the Ziplock bag.
- Tape the top of the Ziplock bag so it does not open.
- Have your child play with the Ziplock bag and observe the insects inside.
- Ask your child what they see and talk about the different insects.

[Click here](#) to listen to "The Ants Go Marching" song.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### IMITATE THE INSECTS

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Go to the park with your child.
- Look for different insects and talk to your child about how they move.
- Encourage your child to imitate the insects moving. For example, fly like a butterfly, hop like a grasshopper, etc.
- You can also pretend to be an insect and let your child guess what you are.
- Take turns playing this game.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Insect Song".

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### INSECT HUNT

##### MATERIALS:

- Magnifying glass
- Paper
- Pen

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Talk to your child about the different insects and find their pictures on the internet.
- Have your child choose five different insects that they are interested in.
- Write the names of these insects and invite your child to look for them outside.
- Encourage your child to observe each insect they find and notice details such as colours, patterns, sizes, number of legs, etc.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### INSECTS FOR SALE

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Markers
- Magnifying glass

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Take your child for a walk in the neighbourhood.
- Look for insects and observe how they look and how they move.
- Have your child draw the insects that they have found outside.
- Play the "insects for sale" game by creating an advertisement that includes the names of the insects, where they live, what they like to eat, how they move, etc.
- Your child can present the advertisement to their friends or family and see which insect they are interested in and would like to buy.

[Click here](#) to watch "All about Insects for Children".

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### INSECT STUDY

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Markers
- Internet access or books about insects

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Choose two or three insects to study.
- Search the information about these insects on the internet or in science books.
- For each insect, make a list of their traits, habits, etc. For example: what they look like, how they communicate, what they eat, where they live, what their life span is, how they move, etc.
- Draw a Venn diagram. [Click here](#) to learn about the Venn diagram.
- Fill the Venn diagram with the information you have written and compare the similarities and differences between the insects.
- Share your findings with your friends and family.

[Click here](#) for more insect facts.



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#### FUN FACTS ABOUT INSECTS

- Insects are the most diverse group of animals, making up over half of all organisms on Earth.
- The number of insect species is believed to be between six and ten million.
- Insects are invertebrates, which means that they do not have a backbone.
- All insects have three parts to their bodies: the head, the abdomen and the thorax.
- Most insects hatch from eggs.
- About half of all insects are herbivores, which means that they eat only plants. Some insects are known as predators that hunt other small insects.
- Insects use parts of their bodies to create sounds and communicate with each other.
- Insects are beneficial to the environment and humans. For example, they are an important source of food for many animals, they are vital pollinators, and they provide us with honey, beeswax, and silk.