

Theme: Insects & Butterflies

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- ❑ Lay in a blanket and roll up like a cocoon (supervise this so the children don't cover their faces).
- ❑ Toss bugs – make beanbags (or use those old beanie babies!) to look like bugs and toss into a basket. You could use regular beanbags and toss into a “bug” made from foam core board, too!
- ❑ Let children crawl or fly like their favorite insect while listening to music.
- ❑ Simon Says – crawl like a bug, fly like a butterfly, etc.
- ❑ Play in the dirt!

Science Activities:

- ❑ Characteristics of Insects: Make flash cards with different types of small animals and insects. Let the children decide which is an insect and which is not. The answer could be printed on the back, along with the name of the creature.
- ❑ Let children observe insects in jars with magnifying glasses; always return creatures to nature after this activity.
- ❑ Look for bugs outdoors; give each child a magnifying glass to look at the bugs in their natural habitat, or collect the bugs and put them in a screen-covered container for bug collecting.
- ❑ Create an outdoor butterfly garden and observe it daily.
- ❑ Create an ant farm! Kids will have fun observing the ants each day!

Math Activities:

- ❑ Make 20 paper ladybugs and put 1-10 black spots on ten of them. Write the number 1-10 on the other 10. Let children match the number to the # of spots (from www.kinderplans.com).
- ❑ Sort bugs (pictures, plastic ones, etc.) by color, size, fly vs. crawl, etc.
- ❑ Count legs on plastic bugs or pictures of bugs.
- ❑ Matching game – let children match pictures of bugs.
- ❑ Measure dirt – put potting soil in your sand table and give the children some measuring cups to measure the dirt.

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

Paint your friend's face!
Make bugs with paper circles.

Snacks:

- ❑ Ants-on-a-log: Fill 3” sections of celery with peanut butter, cream cheese or cheese spread; put raisins on top to look like ants.
- ❑ Chocolate covered raisins – pretend they're chocolate covered ants!
- ❑ Make balls from canned biscuits and bake them close together to resemble a caterpillar! Add raisin eyes before baking and licorice legs after baking.
- ❑ Decorate tops of frosted cupcakes to look like insects.
- ❑ Chocolate cupcakes – add red fruit roll-up “wings” and raisin eyes to look like ladybugs!

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Let children paint butterfly cutouts and suspend them from the ceiling with string. Make sure the butterflies face down so that babies can enjoy watching them while lying down.

Internet resources:

www.BrainPOP.com
www.insectlore.com
JustInsects.com
www.antlionfarms.com
NationalGeographic.com
<http://butterflywebsite.com/>
<http://hometown.aol.com/sndrad67/butterfly/index.html>

Dramatic Play:

Prepare some butterfly wings that the children can wear and pretend to be butterflies. Put several plastic insects in the block play area or the dramatic play area.

Songs & Fingerplays: See cards.

Books:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Bugs! by David T. Greenberg

How Many Bugs in a Box? by David A. Carter

Peekaboo Bugs by David A. Carter

Feely Bugs by David A. Carter

Icky Bug Numbers by Jerry Pallotta

Alpha Bugs by David A. Carter

Water Bugs and Dragonflies by Doris Stickney

Because a Little Bug Went Ka-Choo! by Rosetta Stone

Bugs, Beetles and Butterflies by Harriet Ziefert

Bugs are Insects by Anne F. Rockwell

Bugs by Penelope York

The Best Book of Bugs by Claire Llewellyn

Bug Dance by Stuart J. Murphy

The Very Lazy Lady Bug by Tiger Tales

Bugs by Monica Hughes

Shaoey and Dot: Bug Meets Bundle by Steven Curtis Chapman

Ants by Margaret Hall

Grasshoppers by Margaret Hall

Bugs That Build by Barbara Taylor

Tiny Workers: Ants in Your Backyard by Nancy Loewen

From Caterpillar to Butterfly by Deborah Heiligman

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Jennifer a. Dussling

Snug as a Bug by Michael Elsohn Ross

A Pill Bug's Life by John Himmelman

Everything Bug by Cherie Winner

On Beyond Bugs: All About Insects, by Dr. Seuss

The Best Bug Parade by Stuart J. Murphy

Bug in a Rug by Sue Graves

1000 Facts on Bugs by Cybermedia

Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ugs by

by Anthony D. Fredericks

Bugs for Lunch by Margery Facklam

Leo the Lightning Bug by Eric Drachman

A Bug, a Bear, and a Boy by David M. McPhail

Wee Sing and Learn Bugs by Pamela Conn Beall

Bugs by Joan Richards Wright

Icky Bug Shapes by Jerry Pallotta

Icky Bug Colors by Jerry Pallotta

Bug Hunters by Barbara Taylor

101 Bugs to Spot by Emma Helbrough

Ladybugs by Suzanne Slade

I'm a Pill Bug by Yukihisa Tokuda

Born to Be a Butterfly by DK Publishing

Art:

Lady Bug Craft (from www.kinderplans.com): Cut a black circle about the size of a saucer. Cut another circle out of red paper the same size; cut it in half straight down the middle. Children can draw black dots on the two red semi-circles. Glue moveable eyes at the top of the black circle. Use a paper fastener to attach the "wings" to the black circle, about 1/3 of the way down from the top of the circle, (eyes should be centered in the top 1/3 of the black circle). The child now has a ladybug with moveable wings!

Paint rocks to look like bugs!

Color butterflies and talk about the different types of butterflies, the colors in their wings, etc.

Tear tissue paper of different colors, use vegetable oil to "glue" to wax paper. Hang in the window to let the light shine through the pretty colors. The oil makes the colors "glow" when the light shines through!

Fingerprint bugs – let children use washable inkpads to make fingerprints, then use colored pencils to create bugs from their fingerprints!

Make a collage of different bug pictures

Make a bug box out of shoeboxes, etc., decorated really pretty by the children using tempera paints. Inside, the children could put pictures of bugs they've colored and cut out.

Circle Time Activities:

- To describe the parts of an insect, have 3 children come up and stand in a line, touching each other at the hip. This represents the head, thorax, and abdomen. The child at the head holds up his/her arms to represent the antennae. Point out to the group that the insect has 6 legs and 3 body parts. This is what they should look for in trying to identify which creatures are insects and which are not. (from www.kinderplans.com)
- Where do bugs live? What do they eat?
- Show pictures and discuss the changes in the life cycle of a butterfly. Show pictures of different types of butterflies and name them.
- Read books about insects and butterflies... LOTS of books!
- Flannel board activities – either illustrating a favorite story or for counting activity.
- Talk about the colors of insects.
- "B" – Talk about the letter "B" for bugs and butterflies... and "I" for insect.
- Talk about the number 6 and various things that add up to 6.
- Picture and word matching – identify the words "bug", "insect", "butterfly".