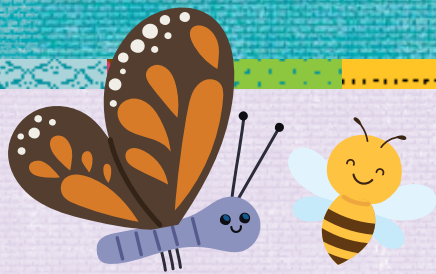


# Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

## Bees & Butterflies

Your child will start by investigating the bee's body parts, life and work. They will explore the shape of a honeycomb, then build their own beehive. From pretending to be a bee to making honey, your child will learn how bees help and hurt us.

As the topic changes to butterflies, your child will learn about the life cycle of a butterfly. They will decorate their own flying butterfly and learn how butterflies migrate to Mexico. In the process, they will get a closer look at butterfly parts.

This month will awaken the scientific wonder and awe of the busy and beautiful world of bees and butterflies.

Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!

### Today I counted bees.

There are thousands of bees living in a hive! I colored a beehive and cut out my own bees to play with in a math game. When I practice counting, it's so much more fun.



### Today I made a beehive.

There are cells inside all bee homes where bees store food or lay eggs. I experimented with stamping cells onto my beehive. Now I can look and see what is inside!



ASK ME: What materials did you use to stamp? What else do you know about beehives?

preschool

## The Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor play is a necessity in the daily routine of young children. The outdoor environment is filled with unexpected investigations and learning opportunities, and plenty of general knowledge happens naturally. Outdoors, children can learn many developmental skills, such as risk-taking, physical development, logic and science. Try these 6 ideas to take your child's learning outside:

- **Visit a local lumberyard or construction site** and ask for leftover wood. Invite your child to help you sand the blocks. Keep them outside for building and playing.
- **Find plastic crates, pieces of lumber**, heavy-duty cardboard boxes, old shower curtains and sheets or material to create play houses, tents and other structures. Your child can make weather-durable forts outside.
- **Create a small garden area** that can be completely tended with your child, from planting to weeding and harvesting. Use large totes, old children's pools or an unused sandbox.
- **Have a box of clipboards, pencils, magnifying glasses** and other tools ready to bring outside that encourage observation, exploration and discovery.
- **Explore naturally created challenges together** that might seem unsafe for the child to explore alone, e.g., a clump of bushes, stumps, fallen logs and trees with low branches.
- **Don't let weather keep you from playing outside.** Put on rain gear, cold-weather gear or other items that allow you to experience nature together, no matter the weather.



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

**Letters** Mm, Xx & Kk

**Shape** Hexagon

**Numbers** 15 & 16

**Color** White

**Character Trait** Respectful

**Letter Mm** mushroom, mouse & moon

**Letter Xx** x-ray fish, xylophone & X marks the spot

**Letter Kk** kite, kangaroo & kiwi



Topics your child will explore this month:

# Bees & Butterflies

## Bee Basics

- 1 Home
- 2 Food
- 3 Babies
- 4 Work
- 5 Safety

## Bees & Wasps

- 6 Honey Bee
- 7 Bumble Bee
- 8 Carpenter Bee
- 9 Yellow Jacket
- 10 Hornet

## Butterflies

- 16 Monarch
- 17 Swallowtail
- 18 Blue Morpho
- 19 Peacock Butterfly
- 20 Butterfly House

## Metamorphosis

- 11 Egg
- 12 Caterpillar
- 13 Chrysalis
- 14 Butterfly
- 15 Moth



## RECOMMENDED READS

# Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

**Are You a Bee?**  
by Judy Allen

**Busy Buzzy Bee**  
by Karen Wallace

**Buzzy the Bumblebee**  
by Denise Brennan-Nelson

**The Beautiful Bee Book**  
by Sue Unstead

**The Life Cycle of a Bee**  
by Lisa Trumbauer

**Five Little Honey Bees**  
by James Croft



## Helping Insects

*(To the tune of "The Muffin Man")*

Find out other facts about bees and butterflies together to sing more verses.

**Do you know the honeybee,  
The honeybee, the honeybee?  
Do you know the honeybee?  
It makes a lot of honey.**

**Do you know the butterfly,  
The butterfly, the butterfly?  
Do you know the butterfly?  
It helps the flowers grow.**

## Family Activities

### Butterfly & Bee Walk

Find a local nature trail and go for a walk together. Count the butterflies and bees you see along the trail. Which flowers and plants do you think the bees and butterflies like the best? Search for beehives, nests, caterpillars or other items in nature your children have learned about this month.

