

Creepy Crawlies and Bugs

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Share books about different types of bugs children encounter in their natural world to stimulate their curiosity.
- **SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to less familiar bugs, such as centipedes, katydids, cicadas, crickets, moths, fireflies, and grasshoppers. Talk about the movements these insects make.
- **SHARE RHYMES** When repeating some of the rhymes we did in storytime, pause occasionally and see if your child can supply the rhyming word. For example, in “Little Flea,” *flea* rhymes with *knee*, and *goes* rhymes with *nose*.
- **SHARE SONGS** While singing the storytime songs at home, emphasize the syllables in the words you are singing. Songs have a different note for each syllable, which helps children break down words. You can also clap the syllables to help children hear them within words.
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about bugs that you see crawling and flying. Use questions like “Where are they going?” or “What might they be thinking?” as a springboard to discussion.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Go outside to explore nature and bugs! Ask questions about bug behaviors and appearances and also open-ended questions, such as “Which bug is your favorite?” or “How are mosquitoes and flies alike?”
- **SHARE WRITING** Encourage your child to move his or her fingers like a spider between a flashlight and the wall to create shadow puppets. Wiggling fingers is a great activity to strengthen the small muscles that will be used for writing.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

My Busy Garden

(sung to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming ’Round the Mountain”)

Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!

(Make digging motions)

Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!

See them scurry here and there—tossing dirt into the air,

Oh, the ants are busy digging all around—dig, dig!

Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!

(Hold up two fists and move around buzzing)

Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!

See them buzzing here and there—lots of pollen in the air,

Oh, the bees are busy buzzing all around—buzz, buzz!

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp,

chomp! *(Open and close hands as if chewing)*

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp, chomp!

See them chewing leaves and flowers, as they while away the hours,

Oh, the beetles are busy chewing all around—chomp, chomp.

Oh, the insects are all busy, yes they are—so busy!

(Hold hands up in air, palms up, and shake)

Oh, the insects are all busy, yes they are—so busy!

My garden is a buzzin’, with insects by the dozen,

Oh, the insects are all busy, yes they are—busy, busy!

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The Ants Go Marching

(Have child march in place. For the line “round and around, and up and down,” have child turn around and move up and down.)

The ants go marching one by one,

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The ants go marching one by one,

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The ants go marching one by one, the little one stops to suck his thumb,

They all go marching round and around, and up and down
(BOOM, BOOM, BOOM).

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Additional Verses

The ants go marching two by two ...
The little one stops to tie his shoe ...

The ants go marching three by three ...
The little one stops to climb a tree ...

The ants go marching four by four ...
The little one stops to shut the door ...

The ants go marching five by five ...
The little one stops to take a dive ...

The ants go marching six by six ...
The little one stops to pick up sticks ...

The ants go marching seven by seven ...
The little one stops to say "my heaven" ...

The ants go marching eight by eight ...
The little one stops to shut the gate ...

The ants go marching nine by nine ...
The little one stops to scratch his spine ...

The ants go marching ten by ten ...
The little one stops to say "THE END" ...

Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider (*Climb hands from low to high*)
Went up the water spout.
Down came the rain (*With open hands, sweep from high to low*)
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun (*Make sun overhead with arms*)
And dried up all the rain,
And the itsy bitsy spider (*Climb hands from low to high*)
Went up the spout again.

There's a Bug on My Toe

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")
(*Have children move hand like bug and follow motions given in song*)

There's a bug on my toe, on my toe.
There's a bug on my toe, on my toe.
There's a bug on my toe,
Oh, how I wish he'd go,
There's a bug on my toe, on my toe.

There's a bug on my knee, on my knee.
There's a bug on my knee, on my knee.
There's a bug on my knee,
Oh, how I wish he'd flee,
There's a bug on my knee, on my knee.

There's a bug on my tummy-tum-tum.
There's a bug on my tummy-tum-tum.

There's a bug on my tummy,
And it isn't very funny,
There's a bug on my tummy-tum-tum.

There's a bug on my nose, on my nose.
There's a bug on my nose, on my nose.
There's a bug on my nose,
Please go back to my toes!
There's a bug on my nose, on my nose.

There's a bug on my nose—there he goes!
There's a bug on my tummy—not funny!
There's a bug on my knee,
And I think he's gonna flee,
There's a bug on my toes—and away he goes!
THANK GOODNESS!

Rhymes

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,
(*Move from side to side on seat*)
Eating her curds and whey, (*Make pretend eating motions*)
Along came a spider who sat down beside her,
(*Move fingers on hand like a spider*)
And frightened Miss Muffet away! (*Jump up!*)
(*Repeat*)

Little Flea

Creeping, creeping, little flea,
(*Child creeps fingers up and down body as directed*)
Up my leg and past my knee.
To my tummy, on he goes,
Past my chin and to my nose.
Now he's creeping down my chin,
To my tummy once again.
Down my leg and past my knee,
To my toe that little flea.
GOTCHA! (*Clap hands loudly!*)

Wave Goodbye

Wave high. Wave low. (*Adapt motions to words*)
I think it's time, we gotta go.
Wave your elbows. Wave your toes.
Wave your tongue and wave your nose.
Wave your knees. Wave your lips.
Blow a kiss, with fingertips.
Wave your ears. Wave your hair.
Wave your belly and derriere.
Wave your chin. Wave your eye.
Wave your hand and say "goodbye."

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