



# Bugs, Bugs, Bugs Theme

Children are often fascinated with insects and springtime is a good time to learn more about insects.

## Language & Literacy

### Books

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**  
by Eric Carle

**The Very Busy Spider**  
by Eric Carle

**Little Miss Spider**  
by David Kirk

**Inch by Inch**  
by Leo Lionni

**Diary of a Spider**  
by Doreen Cronin

**Bugs Are Insects**  
by Anne Rockwell and Steve Jenkins.

**Butterflies in the Garden**  
by Carol Lerner

**Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!**  
by Bob Barner

### Activities

**Bug Guess Who-** Collect a variety of pictures of different types of bugs. Set them out for the children to see. Give the children a verbal description of the different bugs and see if they can figure out which bug you are describing. This helps children with visual discrimination skills, listening skills, and recognizing details.

**Where Do Bugs Live-** Use bug storybook or any other book you can find about bugs, and discuss where bugs live with the children. Use some plastic bugs for props.

**Create Your Own Bug-** Provide children with a copy of the **Bug Jar Activity Page** from the **Theme Enhancements Page**. Instruct them to draw any kind of bug they want inside it, it can be a real or imaginary bug. Have them describe their bug to you, what does it do, what is it called, and any other special characteristics it might have.

Put the pictures together to create a class or group bug story.

### Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

#### **Buggy Bodies**

*(Sung to Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes)*

Head and thorax, abdomen, abdomen

Head and thorax, abdomen, abdomen

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 legs (*count out three fingers on each side of you as if they are the legs sticking out of the bugs body*)

Head and thorax, abdomen, abdomen!

### **Math & Number Concepts**

**Bug Sort-** Provide the children with a bunch of bug counters. They can be used for sorting, patterning, and counting.

**Bug Jar Counting-** Print copies of the **Bug Jar Counting Activity Sheet** from the **Theme Enhancement Page** for each child. Invite the children to apply bug stickers, stamps, or even use their fingerprints to the jars based on the numbers show.

### **Bug Matching, Patterning, and Sorting**

Using stickers or clip art, create some bug matching cards. Laminate them for protection.

*Directions:* Play concentration and then make patterns like ladybug, fly, grasshopper, ladybug, fly, \_\_\_\_\_? Have kids pick what comes next. Sort the bugs next. Sort them by kind, color, and features like flying bugs and crawling bugs, let kids think of other ways to sort them.

### **Bug Numbers SWAT!**

Program bug shapes with numbers and hang them on a wall, provide children with fly swatters that have a whole cut in the middle of them. Have them take turns swatting the bugs and telling you what number is on the bug. I demonstrate to the children how they can swat the bug and then see the number through the swatter. Sometimes we draw number cards I have made to see which bug the child should swat.

### **Art**

**Fly-Swatter Pictures-** Have the children make a few "fingerprint bugs" (see small motor activities) on a piece of paper. Let them dip a clean fly swatter in paint and slap the bugs on their picture.

**Creative Art Bugs-** Provide children with various craft supplies to create one of a kind bug sculptures. Egg cartons, pipe cleaners, buttons, craft foam, etc.

### **Dramatic Play**

**Entomology Lab-** Set up a bug lab! Have some white lab coats (men's oxford shirts work well), a microscope, plastic bugs, bug jars, a clipboard with notepaper, and bug identification posters.

## **Music & Movement**

**Bug Waltz-** Dance like bugs to classical music. Talk with the students about how bugs look when they fly around and land on things.

**Dragon Fly Musical Chairs-** Play some upbeat music and stop it periodically; encourage all the children to "land" on a chair. Make this a cooperative game by encouraging the children to work together to get everyone on a chair as the chairs disappear. (Could use hula hoops)

## **Science & Sensory**

**Frozen Bugs:** Freeze plastic bugs in ice cubes and place them in the discovery table. Fill the discovery table with water for some water fun.

**Bug Hunt Outdoors!** Take the children outdoors to look for live bugs. Encourage them to collect bugs in plastic bug jars carefully. If you are unable to go outside do the bug hunt indoor using plastic insects. Provide children with butterfly nets, bug containers, and a bug identification chart.

## **Blocks & Building**

Stick Bug Stickers on blocks for the children to use in the block and building area.

## **Technology**

[www.insectlore.com](http://www.insectlore.com)

This is a fabulous resource for all you want to know about BUGS!! There are lots of teacher resources, online games, and products. PLUS YOU CAN BUY LIVE BUGS FROM THEM!

Check Out Eric Carle's Web Site at [www.ericcarle.com](http://www.ericcarle.com)

## **Cooking & Snacks**

**Create an Edible Bug** - Hi Ho crackers, peanut butter (PNB), trail mix, and pretzels. Let the kids spread peanut butter on the crackers and then they can add pieces of the trail mix and pretzels to make an edible bug!

**Ants on a Log** - Spread peanut butter on celery and add raisins on top.

**Ticks on a Toilet Seat** - Peel and core apples. Cut horizontally so you have donut shaped apple slices. Smear with PNB and sprinkle chocolate chips on top. (Opt. -fill the center with whip cream died yellow with food coloring)

## **Bulletin Boards**

**“We Were Caught Being Good!”** – Create a class bulletin board to highlight good behaviors. Cut out a jar shape from bulletin board paper to attach it onto the board. Hang children’s pictures in the jar and attach a bug shaped cutout to each child’s picture with a note in it stating what behavior was observed.

Write your ideas here...