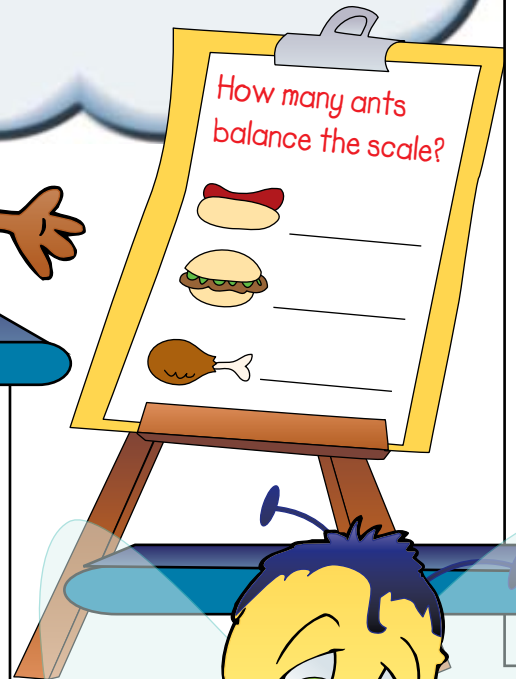


Creepy-Crawly Critter Centers

What's all the buzz about? These bug-themed centers! Use this collection of creepy-crawly critter ideas, and your youngsters will be going buggy!

ideas contributed by Sue Fleischmann
Waukesha County Project Head Start, Waukesha, WI



Math Center Weight measurement

How Much Does a Picnic Weigh?

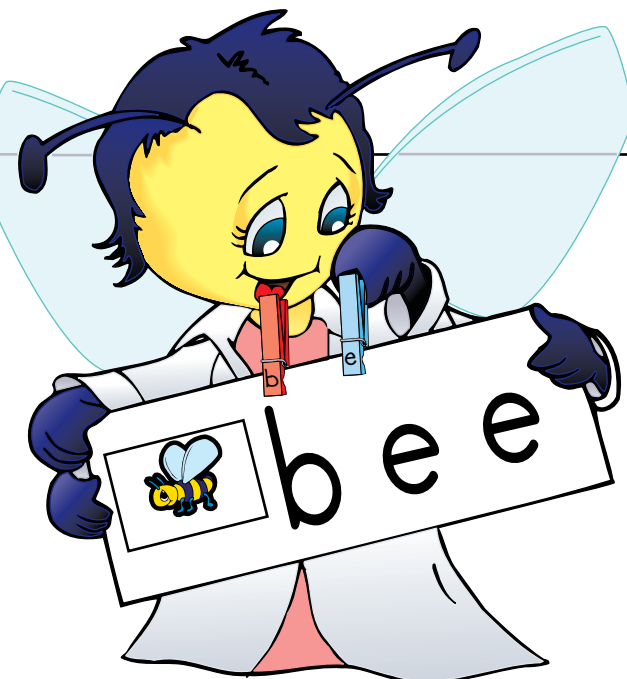
Believe it or not, ants are welcome at this pretend picnic! Set up a balance scale in your math area. Fill a picnic basket with toy food; then set the basket near the scale. Add a supply of plastic ant counters to the area. To use the center, a child places an item from the picnic basket onto the scale. Then she places ants on the opposite side of the scale until it is balanced. For more learning fun, make a supply of recording sheets similar to the one shown. Set the sheets near the scale and have students write the number of ants needed to balance each food item. The ants are weighing one by one! Hurrah, hurrah!

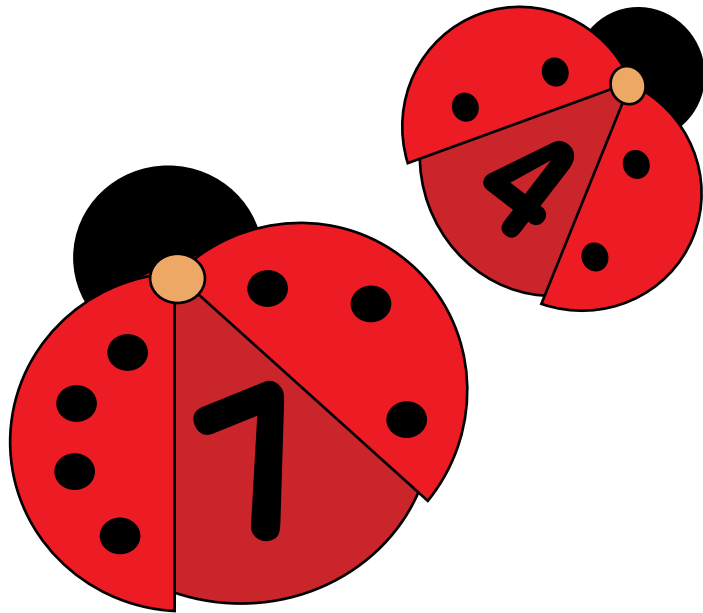
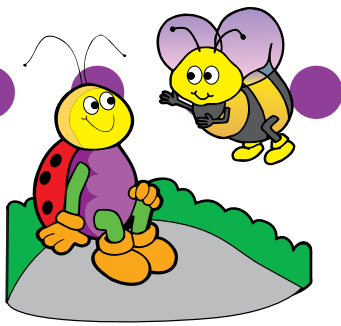


Literacy Center Letter matching

B Is for Bee

Your little ones will swarm around this literacy center, which reinforces a variety of skills! In advance, photocopy the insect patterns on page 7. Color the patterns and then cut out each one. Glue each pattern to the left end of a sentence strip. Write the name of the insect on the strip; then write each letter from the name onto a different spring-type clothespin. Invite each child to the area and have him spell out the name of each insect by clipping the clothespins above the matching letters. Encourage the child to also compare the lengths of the different names and to find matching letters or similar letter groupings in the names.





Ladybug Counting

Little ones will spread their wings and fly over to your math area for some number fun with ladybugs! Make a set of ten ladybug manipulatives to help your students practice **counting and numeral recognition**. To make one ladybug, cut two circles of the same size from red, laminated construction paper and a smaller circle from black, laminated construction paper. Cut one of the red circles in half to create two wings. Use a permanent marker to label the uncut red circle with a numeral from 1 to 10; then draw the corresponding number of dots on the wing set. Fasten all four pieces together with a metal brad as shown. Invite a child at this center to count the dots on a ladybug's wings and then spread the wings to see the corresponding numeral.

Kathy Myles, Hicksville Nursery School, Hicksville, NY

Attribute Bugs

Introduce youngsters to **sorting and classifying** with an activity that incorporates creativity and family involvement! Send each child home with a zippered plastic bag containing a few art supplies and a note asking parents to help their child create a bug. On half the notes ask for a bug with spots, and on the other half ask for a bug without spots. When everyone has brought in his creation, lay all the bugs on the floor outside two plastic hoops. Ask students to sort the groups into the hoops by an attribute, such as spots/no spots. After a few rounds of sorting into distinct categories, give a sorting rule that allows for a bug to fit into both hoops. Lead youngsters to suggest overlapping the hoops, and your little ones will understand the purpose of a Venn diagram!

Kay Wisner, Alto Elementary, Alto, MI

