

Buzzin' Around the Hive!

Gross-Motor Activities for Busy Bees

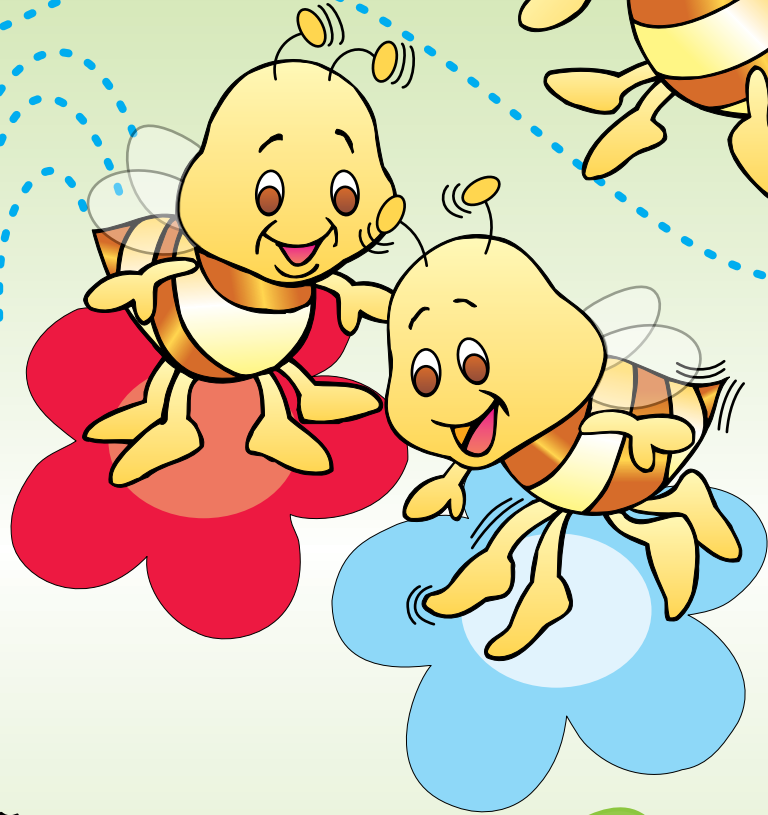
When warm, sunny weather has little ones abuzz with energy, make a beeline for these sweet suggestions! Your youngsters will have a honey of a time showing off their gross-motor moves as they buzz about!

by Ada Goren

Garden Moves

Performing specific movements, color recognition

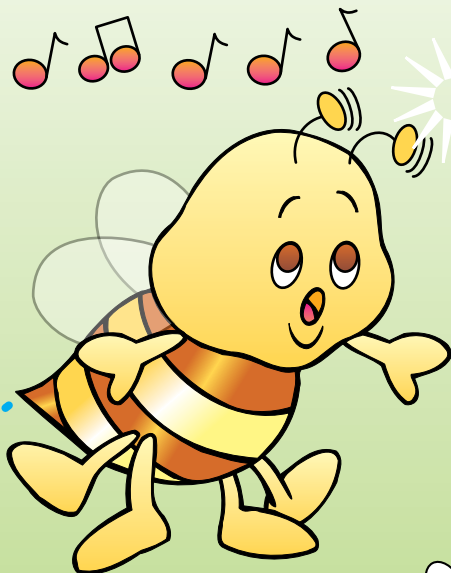
These large and colorful blooms keep little bees on the move! Cut large flower shapes from different colors of construction paper. Add desired details to the flowers; then use clear Con-Tact covering to attach them to the floor in open classroom areas. For a small-group activity, meet students at the classroom hive (circle-time area). Give each bee a different instruction, such as "Tiptoe to the blue flower" or "Hop to the red flower." When each bee is on his flower, have the bees buzz back to the hive for another round of play. Or, when one little bee needs to release extra energy, ask him to perform specific gross-motor movements as he buzzes from flower to flower! Buzz, buzz!



Freeze, Bees!

Responding to tempo with creative movement, making quick stops

Keep a recording of Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee" handy, and you have a honey of a movement activity at your fingertips! Simply gather your little honeybees at the hive (circle-time area), start the music, and invite the youngsters to dance and move to the music. Sporadically stop the music and say, "Freeze, bees!" As your little honeys try to freeze their bodies in midmovement, applaud their gross-motor control. Freeze, bees!



Patterning in Preschool

Join these prickly little hedgehogs for a heap of pleasing patterning practice!

ideas contributed by Angie Kutzer, Garrett Elementary, Mebane, NC

Rustle, swish, rustle, swish!

Leafy Loudness

What do youngsters hear when they run through a pile of leaves? Rustle, swish, crackle, crinkle! Why not use these fun leafy sounds for some fall-inspired patterning practice! Begin by chanting a simple AB sound pattern, such as rustle, swish, rustle, swish, encouraging youngsters to chime in when they're ready. Continue with other sound patterns, using the words mentioned above. When students are comfortable with this activity, encourage them to pretend to walk through piles of leaves as they recite the patterns.

Teeny, Tiny Patterns

These student-made patterning strips make simply smashing bracelets! Use decorative hole punches to make a supply of two different shapes. Sort the shapes into containers. Then place the containers at a table along with a supply of 1" x 9" construction paper strips and glue. Encourage each child to place six evenly spaced dots of glue on a strip. Have her place a cutout on each dot to make an AB pattern. When the glue is dry, staple the strip to make a bracelet.

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