Green Room News

BUGS

We spent the end of our school year together learning more about BUGS. We learned the parts of an insect, discovered insects that live in a colony, identified spiders as arachnids, and learned more about our favorite bugs. We welcomed various bugs into our classroom, including butterflies, ants and praying mantises. We waited, watched, and wondered while observing these bugs.

Our Favorite Theme Books

Circle time is a great time to hear stories that help friends learn more about our theme. This month our favorite books were:

- Insects by Rebecca Rissman
- From Caterpillar to Butterfly by Deborah Heiligman
- Tiny Workers: Ants in your Backyard by Nancy Loewen
- Buzz, Bee! by Jennifer Szymanski
- Spiders by Christopher Nicholas
- Stink Bugs by Mari Schuh
- Ladybugs: Red Fiery, and Bright by Mia Posada

Mango Monkey Says…

Our wise puppet friend visited the friends this month to talk about sportsmanship. We shared the book, Bat’s Big Game, retold by Margaret Read MacDonald, illustrated by Eugenia Nobati. The earliest versions of this tale seem to be from Aesop. This story takes place on a soccer field. Bat joins one side and then the other. Bat wants to play on the winning team, so he switches teams in the middle of the game. The two teams did not think his actions were fair and asked, “What side are you on?” He is discredited and had to leave the game. Bat learned that he cannot play on both sides at once! We discussed how a good player sticks with the team…even when they are losing.
Week 1

Butterflies

We began our unit in anticipation of our butterflies emerging from their chrysalises. After identifying butterflies as insects, we learned the parts of an insect. Creating our insect locker tags helped us remember 3 body parts (head, thorax and abdomen), 6 legs, antennae and that some insects have wings. Making insects using model magic and various materials allowed the friends to use their creativity while remembering to display the parts of an insect.

Talking about the lifecycle of the butterfly helped us understand what was happening as we waited….and waited….and waited. After the amazing metamorphosis, our butterflies emerged. We noticed the symmetry on their wings. We demonstrated the symmetry when we painted butterflies. After reading Bye, Bye Butterflies by Andrew Larsen, we waved goodbye as we released our butterfly friends.

Week 2

Bees and Ants

Next, we learned that some insects live together in groups called colonies. Bee and Ants are the insects we focused on during the week. After discussing life in a honeybee hive, we role played the part of a queen bee, and worker bees in the hive (block center). The worker bees gathered nectar, guarded the hive and cared for the queen. Like the bees, the ant colonies have a queen and worker ants that have a job to do. Observing our ant farm allowed us to watch the worker ants interact with each other and dig trails. We created ant hills with sand and assembled ant trails marching in a line. Using the Zoomy, a handheld digital microscope, we took a closer look at bee and ant specimens.
Week 3

Spiders

After learning that spiders belong to group called Arachnids, we noticed the difference between a spider and an insect. When creating spiders during the week, we remembered they have two body parts, 8 legs and can have up to 8 eyes. We learned spiders have spinnerets (an organ in abdomen), that produce the silky thread to create webs, help them climb, build egg sacs etc. We watched videos that showed us a spider spinning a web and trapping food in its web. We wondered, “why don’t spiders stick to their webs?” We learned that some strands of the web are sticky and other are not and that only the hairs on their legs come into contact with the sticky threads. To demonstrate the process, we created spider webs using double sided tape (sticky threads) and one-sided tape (nonsticky threads) and added spiders and prey. A spider made an appearance during our Little Miss Muffet performances.

Week 4

Stinkbugs, Ladybugs and Fireflies

During our last week, we asked the friends what bugs they wanted to learn more about and incorporated them into our play. The top choices were: stinkbugs, ladybugs and fireflies. We discovered ladybugs and fireflies belong to a group called beetles. When creating stinkbugs, we used a shield shape for the body and smelly markers to incorporate the smell they emit. Playing ladybug math helped us practice counting and adding when we placed the spots on a ladybug. After learning that fireflies produce a chemical reaction in their abdomen which allows them to light up, we created fireflies using a battery-operated candle to represent their glow. Turning off the lights and adding an ultraviolet light to glowing beads, balls and sticks, along with our glowing fireflies, added to the fun with light.
Make Shop Experiences

This month in the Make Shop, we experimented with ramps and ramp building. We introduced wooden and plastic ramps with small wooden balls and tennis balls. Then, we added rubber ramps and large cardboard tubes. Throughout the explorations, the friends collaborated on ramp designs and problem solving.

Music Experiences

with Mrs. Hraber

The Bugs theme was incorporated into music time with Mrs. Hraber. We enjoyed learning songs about butterflies, ants and spiders. We tapped rhythm sticks while pretending to be ants marching in a line and used xylophones and tambourines when practicing keeping the beat and repeating rhythmic patterns. Singing bug songs while moving the parachute is always a favorite!

Center Spotlight:

Loose Parts

Loose parts can be natural or synthetic materials. They are found, bought or upcycled materials that children move, manipulate, control and change within play. Loose parts capture children’s curiosity and give free reign to their imagination and motivate learning. Our loose parts table is always bustling with imaginative scenarios, designs, and conversations. Some of the Green Room friends’ favorite loose parts include: colored gem stones, rocks, tree blocks, logs and tree stumps, acorns, spools, small tiles, and sea shells. Adding people and animals to the table enhances the play.
Special Visitors and Birthday Celebrations

Rowan’s Dad visited to share a story to celebrate his 5th birthday.

Nalu’s Dad shared a story and joined us for his birthday snack.

Miss Debbie shared bug themed stories and songs.

We watched FMS workers plant a tree in honor of Arbor Day.

Our Month in Photos