



*Bugs, Butterflies, Worms,
and Spiders*

Language & Literacy
Enrichment Activities

INTRODUCTION:

This supplement provides information on how to use the Cloverbud's *language and literacy enhancement materials*. These activities complement the Cloverbud's curriculum by extending the original activities with alternatives, extensions, and variations that have a focus on language and literacy development. All of the enhancement activities coordinate with current Cloverbud theme activities and are similar in design and format. These activities have been aligned with the Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Standards. Like the original Cloverbud activities, these activities encourage learning new things and positive attitudes through hands-on projects.

OBJECTIVES:

Build speaking, reading, and writing skills through Cloverbud theme activities centered on children's books.

GROUP SIZE:

6–8 children per adult volunteer

TIME FRAME:

Each activity will take about 5–15 minutes to complete and can be integrated into the Cloverbud lesson.

1. Getting Started

ACTIVITY “Story Props”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.6 *Speaking and Listening*

- B. Listen to a selection of literature
- Retell a story in chronological order

Materials: craft sticks, glue/tape, index cards, butterfly metamorphose pictures

Book Suggestion:

Ghost Wings, Barbara Josse

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!, Bob Barner

Preparation: Create individual stick puppets for children to retell the story.





ACTIVITY “Scavenger Hunt Map Reading”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.2 *Reading Critically in All Content Areas*

A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents in all academic areas.

- Make inferences from text when studying a topic and draw conclusions based on the text.

Materials: Maps of classroom, rubber bug toys

Optional props: bug jars, magnifying glasses

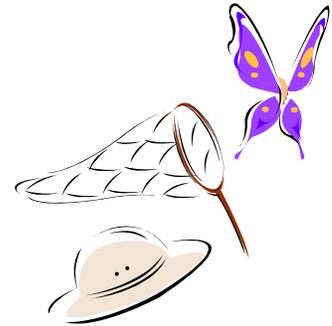
Book Suggestion:

Eye Wonder Bugs: Open your eyes to a world of discovery, Penelope York

Breakout at the Bug Lab, Ruth Horowitz

Buz, Richard Egielski

Preparation: Use maps of the classroom or playground have groups of children look for a hidden insect toy/model.



ACTIVITY “Map Field Notes”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.2 *Reading Critically in All Content Areas*

A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents in all academic areas.

- Make inferences from text when studying a topic and draw conclusions based on the text.

Materials: paper, pencils, bug stickers/post-it-note arrows

Optional props: clipboards, bug jars, magnifying glasses

Book Suggestion:

Looking at Bugs, Laura Driscoll

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs, Catherine Daly

Preparation: Have children draw maps of the playground while they are bug collecting and mark with stickers the locations where they have found bugs. Older children can also label insect names. Younger children may do better with pre-drawn maps.





ACTIVITY “Stomp & Catch Spider”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.6 *Speaking and Listening*

D. Contribute to Discussions

- Listen to and acknowledge the contributions of others
- Display appropriate turn taking behaviors

Materials: a small felt spider (4 pieces of felt ½’x 6’ . Stack & fold in half. Rubber band about an inch from the fold to create the head/body), a small see saw (small piece of wood/ thick cardboard ½’ x 18’ on a narrow unit block).

Book Suggestion:

Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti, Gerald McDermott

Preparation: Place the spider on the bottom end of a small see saw. Have the child stomp on the top end of the see saw and clap their hands together to catch the spider. Create a chanting rhyme (like a jump rope rhyme) based on Anansi or spiders in general to go with the stomp and catch motion. Younger children might just count the number of times they can catch the spider.

Use a cutting board or thin piece of wood or very sturdy cardboard for the launching platform .
When you step here the spider jumps up.

Use a block or sturdy toy for a fulcrum



The felt and rubber band spider rests at the edge of the board near the floor. Catch him when he jumps.

2. Digging Deeper

ACTIVITY “Sequencing Cards”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.6 *Speaking and Listening*

F. Use media for learning purposes

- Show or explain what was learned

Materials: Index cards. Glue/tape, metamorphose pictures

Book Suggestions:

Waiting for Wings, Lois Ehlert

From Caterpillar to Butterfly, Deborah Hiligman

Preparation: Have children place photo or picture cards of the butterfly metamorphosis phases in the correct sequence.





ACTIVITY “Web Search for Spider Information”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.2 *Reading Critically in All Content Areas*

B. Use and understand a wide variety of media and evaluate the quality of material produced

- Use electronic media for research

1.8 *Research*

B. Locate information using appropriate sources and strategies
C. Organize and present the main ideas from research

Materials: Internet capable computer, pattern or paper for student notes, pencils

Book Suggestion:

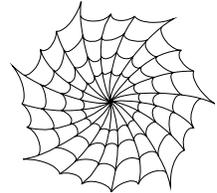
Anansi Does the Impossible! An Ashanti Tale, Verna Aadema

My Father’s Hands, Joanne Ryder

Preparation: Work in pairs or small groups at computer stations, have children look up information on spiders from the suggested web resources.

Variation: If computer stations are not available, information can be gathered from website downloads ahead of time or use nonfiction books and magazines.

3. Looking Within



ACTIVITY “Touchy Web Counting Books”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.2 *Reading Critically in All Content Areas*

C. Produce work in at least one literacy genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

Materials: newsprint paper, black construction paper, glitter glue pens, crayons, spider and insect stickers/stamps, pencils/markers.

Book Suggestion:

The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle

Sophie’s Masterpiece: A Spider’s Tale, Eileen Spinelli



Preparation: Create spider web designs on black construction paper using glitter glue pens. This will be the cover and the template pattern. After the webs are fully dry, rubbings can be made of the web on newsprint paper with crayons. Create the counting pages using stickers or stamps. On the first page add the spider. On the consecutive pages add an insect to the spider and write the appropriate number word and numeral on the page.

Variation: Rubbings can also be made from the touchable spider webs in *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle.



ACTIVITY “Insect Poetry”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.4 *Types of Writing*

A. Write narrative pieces (e.g. stories, poems, plays).

- Use relevant illustrations

1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas

C. Produce work in at least one literacy genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

1.3 Reading, Analyzing, and Interpreting Literature

D. Identifying the structures in poetry

Materials: large sheets of paper, colored pencils, watercolors, brushes

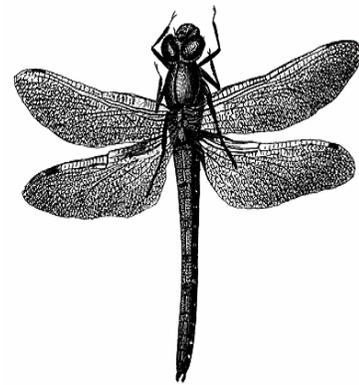
Book Suggestion:

Insectlopedia, Douglas Florian

Preparation: Create a Haiku– traditional Japanese poetry for nature that has 17 syllables in three unrhymed lines of 5-7-5. Illustrate the poetry with the appropriate insects in watercolors.

Example:

Butterfly float free
Splash of color in the air
Glossy wings flutter



Materials: large sheets of paper, markers, stamp pads

Book Suggestion:

Bugs!, David T. Greenberg

I Like Bugs, Margaret Wise Brown

Preparation: Create couplets-Two lines that end in a rhyme. Tercet-Three lines that all end in the same rhyme. Illustrate the poetry with thumbprints and markers in insect shapes.

Example:

Couplet

A flea looking for a house,
Found a room on a mouse.

Tercet

Spider, spider in the web.
Isn't that a sticky bed?
Where's the pillow for your head?





4. Bringing Closure

ACTIVITY “Variation on Good Bug, Bad Bug”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.2 *Reading Critically in All Content Areas*

A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents in all academic areas.

- Make inferences from text when studying a topic and draw conclusions based on text.
- Analyze text organization and content to derive meaning from text using established criteria

Materials: whiteboard or chalkboard for tally counts, poster board, markers

Book Suggestion:

The Magic School Bus Explores the World of Bugs, Nancy White

The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, Jerry Pallotta



Preparation: Have the children vote on if a bug is good or bad and keep a running tally. Graph answers on the poster board for a visual comparison and label the counts with a picture and name of the insect.

ACTIVITY “Wiggle Worm Journal”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.4 *Types of Writing*

A. Write narrative pieces (e.g. stories, poems, plays).
Use relevant illustrations

Materials: pattern or paper, pencils

Book Suggestion:

Diary of a Worm, David Kirk

Preparation: Choose one of the following sentence stems to start a story:

“Three good things about being a worm:” or “Three things I don’t like about being a worm:”



ACTIVITY “Worm Science Experiment Log”

PDE Academic Standards: 1.4 *Types of Writing*

B. Write informational pieces (e.g., descriptions, letters, reports, instructions) using illustrations when relevant

Materials: pattern or paper, pencils, shoebox with the short end cut out, flashlight, sandpaper, damp cloth or paper towels, poster board, markers, real worms (from bait shop, garden store, from the wild)



Book Suggestion:

Wiggling Worms at Work, Wendy Pfeffer

Preparation: Set up a series of science experiments where children observe the worms moving between a choice of two opposites: light (flashlight) vs. dark (shoebox tunnel), smooth (table top) vs. rough (sandpaper), and dry (table top) vs. wet (damp towel). Have children write down their observations as science experiment logs. Graph answers on poster board to compare children's findings.

5. Going Beyond

ACTIVITY "Butterfly Books"

PDE Academic Standards: 1.4 *Types of Writing*

A. Write narrative pieces (e.g. stories, poems, plays).

- Use relevant illustrations



Materials: Orange construction paper, newsprint paper, chenille wire, staplers, scissors, black markers, pencils, glue or tape

Book Suggestion:

Isabel's House of Butterflies, Tony Johnson

Preparation: Create butterfly-shaped books. Glue or tape chenille wire to the book spine for the body, antenna and legs. The wings become the book cover. Round off corners for wing shaped pages. Decorate cover in monarch butterfly patterns.

ACTIVITY "What Do Bugs Eat?"

PDE Academic Standards: 1.4 *Types of Writing*

B. Write informational pieces (e.g., descriptions, letters, reports, instructions) using illustrations when relevant

Materials: recipe card pattern or index cards, pencils, books and fact sheets on insects

Book Suggestion:

Miss Spider's Tea Party, David Kirk

The Spider and the Fly, Tony DiTerlizzi

Preparation: Read about different insects and create imaginary recipes that would suit each kind.



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Variation: Using a Venn diagram have children compare what the spiders from the stories ate to what real spiders eat.

