




Morning Circle

Show a photo of a black widow spider. Discuss it with the children. Show the children a photo of a window spider (also known as the house spider, in Australia.) Ask the children if they can tell which sound is the beginning sound for black "W"indow spider and "W"indow spider. Show them the letter "W." Ask for some other words that begin with "W." (Worm, wasp, wet, water, wiggle, Wednesday, weather, and walrus, for example.) Show a nice, large glossy photo of an especially creepy spider. Note the reactions of the children.

Talk about these reactions. Take a vote...who likes spiders? Who doesn't like spiders? Discuss some of the ways spiders are beneficial. Show the children how to do the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" fingerplay and repeat it with them.



Read The Itsy Bitsy Spider, by Iza Trapani. Listen along if you happen to have the CD version of the story.



Music & Movement:

Have the children stand up and act out the journey of the spider as you play the song, "The Itsy Bitsy Spider."

Snack Time: Provide a large oatmeal cookie and a small container of cake icing. Assist the children in spreading the icing over the cookie. Give each child eight raisins for eyes and eight pieces of black licorice for legs,. Use the icing for "glue" if needed. Yummy creepy spiders!

Art Activity

Sticky Spiderwebs



Give each child a large piece of dark-coloured construction paper. Show them how to use PVC glue or Weldbond glue to make a spider web pattern. Let them try to make their own on the paper. When their webs are dry, they should have a raised texture. After the webs have "set," let the children moisten a thumb with a black ink pad and make a spider's body on their web. Then draw a few eyes and some legs and enjoy all the very busy spiders!

Center Activities

1. Classifying plastic spiders. Provide a table full of toy spiders. Make sure there are a wide variety represented: small black ones, middle-sized brown ones, large scary ones, and everything in between. Make a classification chart with various categories listed, such as size, color, hairiness, fang size, etc. Let the children tally up the differences.

2. Spider library. Make a corner devoted to all things spiders! Decorate it with webs and giant plush spiders.. Provide lots of library books on spiders and comfy reading pillows and chairs. Have a video of spider behavior playing quietly in the corner. You could even turn up the ambiance by playing some nighttime sounds (such as crickets chirping) on a hidden CD player.

3. Spider science. If you happen to have mounted specimens for viewing, that would be ideal. If you do not have sealed and mounted specimens, consider catching several species of spiders (put them in separate jars!) and placing them in sealed containers for the children to examine with bright lights and magnifying glasses. (If you live in Australia, you might want to consider obtaining previously deceased samples!!)

Bible Story



Read The Very Busy Spider, by Eric Carle.

What happens when a spider's web is disturbed or broken in some way? The spider goes right back to work, fixing it and making it both beautiful and effective, until it's perfect. God does the same with us. He will not stop working on us; He will not stop making us beautiful and effective, and we will also not be perfect, until He says so when Christ returns.

Bible Verse Bracelets:

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Just like the spider in the story, God is not distracted from the good work He is doing in your life. He promises to keep making you better and better, until His work on you is finished when Jesus comes back again.

Bible Song:"Love Overboard" from Veggie Tales Jonah's Overboard Sing-Along. Hear a sample here.

[more ideas online](#)