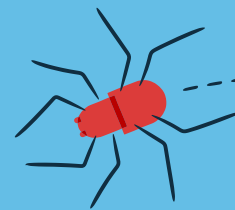


At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers (2 years old)



Week of June 8, 2020

June kicks off a month of **Insects and Spiders** in our Discovery Preschool classrooms, where children learn about creepy crawlies through books, pictures, conversations, songs, and movement games. Whether you've returned to your center or you're still learning from home, you and your child can bring the interesting world of insects and spiders to life with these fun activities.

This week is all about **spiders**! It begins with reading books about spiders, then moves into learning about the parts of a spider. **Movement** is a must this week as your child explores spiders through chants, songs, and walking on spider webs. **Counting** is big too! A variety of fun activities help reinforce your child's counting skills: from the eight legs on a spider, to counting to eight while moving, to five spiders that went out to play.

Some children are fascinated by insects and spiders—others, not so much. You know your child better than anyone. As you work through the activities in this guide, be **sensitive to their feelings** towards insects and spiders. Pay attention to how your child reacts and, if needed, adjust activities so they're within your child's comfort zone. Keep in mind that children take their cues from us, so even if creepy crawlies aren't your favorite, **demonstrating comfort and appreciation** for insects will help your child to do the same!

Developmental Domains

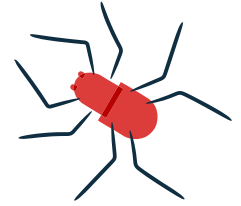
We built our curriculum around six domains that are important to the whole child. Interested in learning more? Click [here](#).



Learning Adventures

are small-group enrichment programs in our centers designed to give children experiences in cooking, STEM, phonics, and music. Some activities in this guide are adapted from these programs for your use at home. They're a great way to dig deeper into areas that may interest your child!

This Week's Theme: Insects and Spiders



What you'll find in this guide. . .

We've organized this content the way your child would be learning in their center, but you and your child can choose your own adventures and do the activities in any order.

MONDAY

Read with Me (Language and Literacy)

Books about Spiders Books provide a rich opportunity for your child to learn about spiders while engaging with you in conversations and building language skills.

Phonics Adventures (Learning Adventures)

The Size of It Your child will grow their vocabulary while exploring size comparisons.



TUESDAY

Growing Flexible Brains (Executive Function)

Parts of a Spider Your child explores how different parts fit together to make the body of a spider.



WEDNESDAY

Get the Wheels Turning (Cognitive Development)

"I'm So Glad to See You" Chanting, counting, and movement—this activity has it all!



THURSDAY

Express Yourself! (Creative Expression)

"Spider Song" Sing, move, and count along to this song about spiders going out to play.

Music Explorers (Learning Adventures)

Dance the Weather Singable Story Your child will dance along to lyrics inspired by the weather!



FRIDAY

Get the Wiggles Out (Physical Development and Wellness)

Walking on Spider Webs Your child practices their balancing skills as they move along the lines of a spider web.



EVERYDAY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!



FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Help your child develop important social-emotional skills by working on your family project! This week, we invite your family to explore the theme **Building Connections**.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

Monday

- Books about spiders, such as *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* or *The Very Busy Spider*

For Phonics Adventures Activity:

- [Which one is...? vocabulary poster](#) (2 pages)

Tuesday

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Paper, 2 sheets
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- [Spider picture](#)

Wednesday

- [Spider picture](#)

Thursday

- ["Spider Song" lyrics](#)

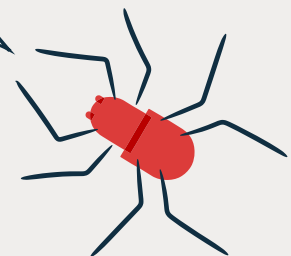
For the Music Explorers activity:

- [All Kinds of Weather vocabulary poster](#)
- [Video link](#) to storybook and song *Dance the Weather*, lyrics by Barbara Wilson Clay, music by Jane Gillman, illustrations by Krista Martenson

Friday

- Sidewalk chalk or masking tape

Tip: At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you're ready to go!



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

MONDAY

Read with Me: Books about Spiders

Books provide a rich opportunity for your child to learn about spiders while engaging with you in conversations and building language skills.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Books about spiders, such as *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* or *The Very Busy Spider*



What your child is learning:

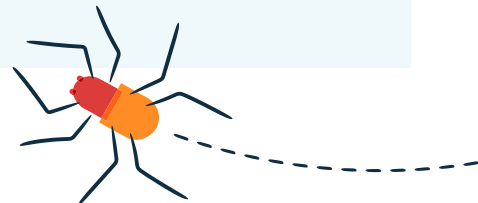
- How to make connections between text and illustrations
- Attention to text read aloud
- How to ask and answer questions

What you do: Select a book to read to your child. If multiple books are available, invite them to select one. Sit with your child. Share the cover and the title of the book with them and then read the book. After reading the book, go back and look at the illustrations with them. Talk with your child about the illustrations by asking questions, such as:

- What do you see in the picture?
- Where is the spider in the picture?
- What is the spider doing?

Reading the same book over again every day is a great way to build your child's confidence, sense of mastery, and language skills.

If your child is ready: Select another book with a spider. Before reading the book, do a picture walk by looking at the illustrations on each page and asking your child to share what they see and what they think is happening. "What is the spider doing in this picture? Why do you think the spider is ...?" After you've completed the picture walk, read the story and talk about what is happening in the pictures in relation to what your child said during the picture walk.



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

MONDAY
(continued)

Phonics Adventures: The Size of It

Your child will grow their vocabulary while exploring size comparisons.



Length of activity:
15–20 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: N/A



What you need:

- [Which one is...? vocabulary poster](#) (2 pages)



What your child is learning:

- To recognize and name objects
- To compare and contrast objects in a set
- To describe the relative size of objects

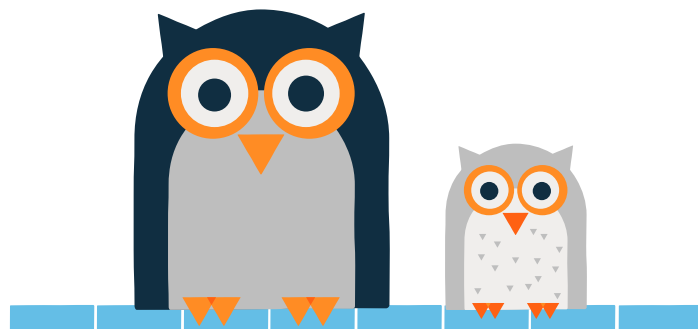
What you do: Show your child both pages of the [Which one is...? vocabulary poster](#). Have a conversation about each set of images. Alternate asking your child to find a certain item and point to it, with you pointing to an item and asking your child to name it. Use rich language to describe each set of images.

After getting familiar with the images on the poster, point to a set of images and ask, "Which one is ___?" Encourage your child to point to the image they think you are asking about. For example, you could point to the two goldfish and ask, "Which one is smaller?" Do this with all of the image sets, pausing as needed to talk about what the size words mean.

You can also play a game of I Spy using the sets of images on the poster. For example, you might say, "I spy something white and furry. Can you find it, too?" Continue playing I Spy with items on the poster as long as your child is interested.

Questions to ask:

- What objects do you see on the poster?
- Which one is...?
- What is something that is tall?
- Where are the teddy bears?





big



bigger



small



smaller



tall



short



empty



full



narrow



wide



large



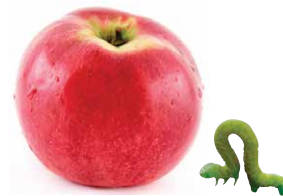
tiny



tall



short



thin



thick



tall taller tallest

small

smaller



smallest

**long
longer
longest**



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

TUESDAY

Growing Flexible Brains: Parts of a Spider

Your child explores how different parts fit together to make the body of a spider.



Length of activity:

15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



Level of Prep Required: Medium



What you need:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Paper, 2 sheets
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- [Spider picture](#)



What your child is learning:

- To put together simple objects
- To complete a simple multi-step task with adult assistance
- How to use observations for planning purpose
- Beginning counting skills

What you do: Draw a large oval and a smaller circle to represent the body sections of a spider on one sheet of paper. On the other sheet, draw eight legs so that four legs will fit on each side of the circle. Cut out the oval, circle, and legs.

Begin by asking your child to point to familiar parts of their body, such as their head, arms, legs, or feet. Then show them the [picture of a spider](#) and ask them what they notice about the spider. Explain that spiders have some of the same body parts as people, such as eyes, legs, and a mouth. Tell them that a spider's body has two sections: the larger section is called the abdomen and the smaller section is called the *cephalothorax* (sef-a-lo-THOR-ax). The smaller section is where the spider's mouth, eyes, and legs are. Point to the spider's legs and invite your child to count them with you.

Next, show your child the pieces you cut out and explain that they're going to help you put together the parts of a spider. Ask them which piece should be used for the larger abdomen of the spider. If needed, compare the oval and the circle side-by-side to help determine which one is larger. Which piece should be the spider's cephalothorax? Have them look at the picture and determine where the legs should go and then place the legs on the paper spider.

When you're finished putting the parts of the spider together, review that a spider has two body sections, one larger and one smaller, and that it has eight legs.

If your child is ready: If your child is interested, glue the different parts of the spider to a sheet of paper and invite your child to color the spider or add any details they would like, or provide your child with blank paper and invite them to draw their own picture of a spider.



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

WEDNESDAY

Get the Wheels Turning: “I’m So Glad to See You”

Chanting, counting, and movement—this activity has it all!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child’s interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult: High**



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- [Spider picture](#)



What your child is learning:

- Beginning counting skills
- Ways to participate in movement and music experiences
- How the body moves in different ways

What you do: Familiarize yourself with the chant, “I’m So Glad to See You” (below). Show your child the [picture of the spider](#), point to the legs, and ask, “How many legs does a spider have?” Point to each leg as you count with your child. Then explain that you have a chant that also counts to eight, just like the number of legs a spider has. Say the chant and encourage your child to perform the movement you call out. Some movements you can use are hop, clap, walk, and wiggle.

“I’m So Glad to See You”

I’m so glad to see you.

I almost couldn’t wait.

Can you (*name a movement*) and count to eight?

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. (*perform movement while counting*)

If your child is ready: Invite your child to help you make a list of movements that can be used in the chant or to select what movement they would like to do while they count to eight.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

THURSDAY

Express Yourself! "Spider Song"

Sing, move, and count along to this song about spiders going out to play.



Length of activity:
10 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- ["Spider Song" lyrics](#)

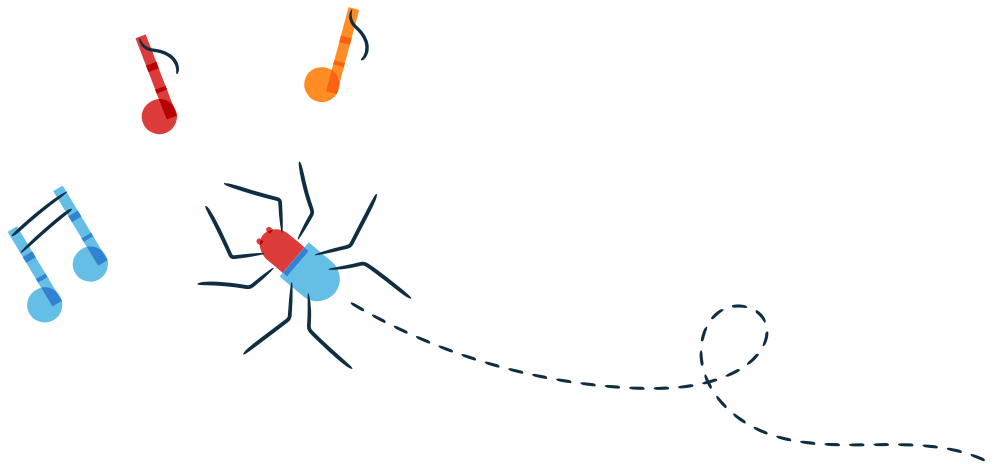


What your child is learning:

- Ways to participate in movement and music experiences
- How to add creative movement to songs
- Beginning counting skills

What you do: Familiarize yourself with the words and movements to the ["Spider Song."](#) Stand with your child so they can see and copy your movement. Tell them you're going to sing a song about spiders going out to play, and you'll perform some actions to go along with the song. Sing the song and act out the movements, inviting your child to perform the same movements. Sing the song again and as your child becomes familiar with the repeated lines, encouraging them to sing along.

If your child is ready: If your child shows interest, expand the song until you reach ten spiders and finish the song by singing the variation as the tenth verse.



Spider Song

One spider went out to play
(hold up the correct number of fingers)

On a great big web one day.
(use arms to make a circle above head)

He had such enormous fun
(open arms wide in front of body)

That he called for another spider to come.
"Hey, Spider!"
(hold hands to mouth, like a megaphone)

Crawl, crawl, crawl.
(crawl on the ground)

Two spiders went out to play
(hold up the correct number of fingers)

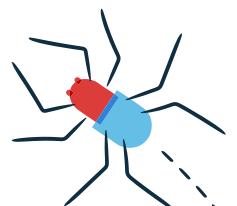
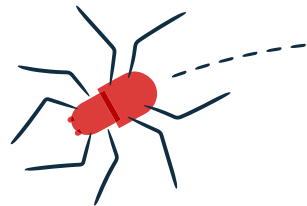
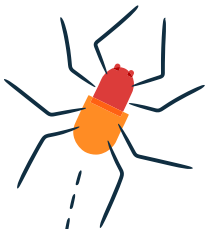
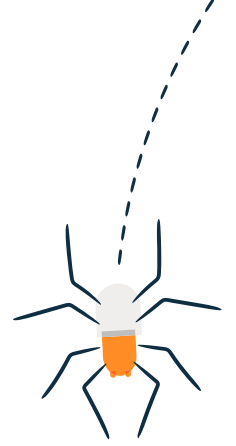
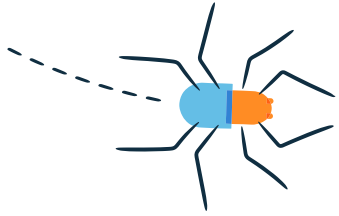
On a great big web one day.
(use arms to make a circle above head)

They had such enormous fun
(open arms wide in front of body)

That they called for another spider to come.
"Hey, Spider!"
Crawl, crawl, crawl.

Continue singing the song until you reach five spiders. Finish the song by singing this variation as the fifth verse:

They had such enormous fun
That they stayed all day to play in the sun!



At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

THURSDAY
(continued)

Music Explorers: *Dance the Weather Singable Story*

Your child will dance along to lyrics inspired by the weather!



Length of activity:
10–15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- [All Kinds of Weather vocabulary poster](#)
- [Video link](#) to storybook and song *Dance the Weather*, lyrics by Barbara Wilson Clay, music by Jane Gillman, illustrations by Krista Martenson



What your child is learning:

- To move creatively to music
- The connection between songs and books
- To make observations about weather

What you do: Share with your child that some songs tell stories, and you have a song that has a storybook to go with it. Explain that the book is about the weather. Show your child the [All Kinds of Weather vocabulary poster](#) and talk about their experiences with weather. Which types of weather has your child experienced? How do they feel when the weather is windy? What types of weather do they like the most? Look outside and talk about today's weather. Have your child match the weather they observe to one of the images on the poster.

Play the [video](#) and invite your child to watch along as the book is sung aloud. Sing along as you catch on to the lyrics and tune. Emphasize the rhyming words as you sing.

Play the video as many times as you'd like, encouraging your child to dance and sing along to the music with you!

Questions to ask:

- What kinds of weather do you see on the poster?
- What is the weather like outside our window?
- How do you feel when it's rainy?
- How would you dance in sunny weather? Windy weather? Snowy weather?
- How does this music make you feel?



rain



lightning



snow



sunny



cloudy



windy



cold



hot

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

FRIDAY

Get the Wiggles Out: Walking on Spider Webs

Your child practices their balancing skills as they move along the lines of a spider web.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Low



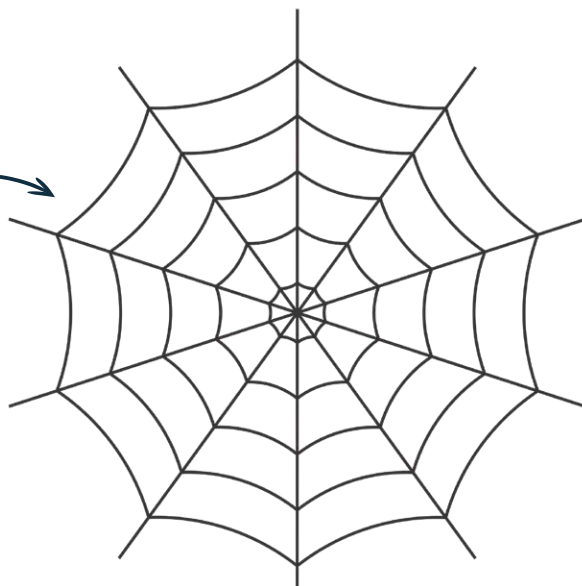
What you need:
Sidewalk chalk or
masking tape



What your child is learning:

- How to maintain balance during movement experiences
- Increased proficiency and confidence in walking
- To follow directions in a movement game

What you do: Use sidewalk chalk to draw a large spider web on a driveway or safe outdoor surface. If a safe outside space isn't available, use masking tape to make a spider web on the floor inside. Show your child the spider web and explain that spiders spin silk strings to make their webs and they use those silk strings to move on their web. Demonstrate how to walk along the lines of the spider web by stepping with one foot in front of the other and keeping both feet on the line. Invite your child to explore moving along the web.





If your child is ready: Add a challenge to their web-walking by introducing obstacles. Place an object on a portion of the web that covers one of the lines, such as pillow or large toy. Tell your child that they cannot go over the object and that they will have to find a way to use the web to go around it.

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers


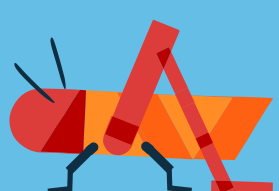
Week of June 8, 2020

Everyday Learning Experiences


Pick an activity to weave learning experiences into your everyday routines—no preparation needed!




With a theme focusing on insects and spiders and the nicer weather coming our way, there are sure to be some little creatures going about their day right outside your front door! Head outside with your child to **look for insects and spiders**. When you see insects in a group, count how many you see. This type of activity is a great way to hone your child's observation skills, inspire their curiosity and sense of wonder, and work on math skills, all at the same time!



Taking things apart and putting them back together are easy ways to help your child build their skills in **problem solving** and **perseverance**. This can be taking apart a stacking toy and putting it back together, exploring how to take off and put on the lid to a snack container, or taking apart and putting together a simple puzzle.



You and your child can practice **balance and coordination skills** any time you're moving from one place to the next. Walking from the bedroom to the bathroom? Encourage your child to place one foot in front of the other and walk heel to toe. Walking to the car? Encourage your child to bring both feet together with each step. Don't forget to model the movements and practice your balance and coordination alongside your child!



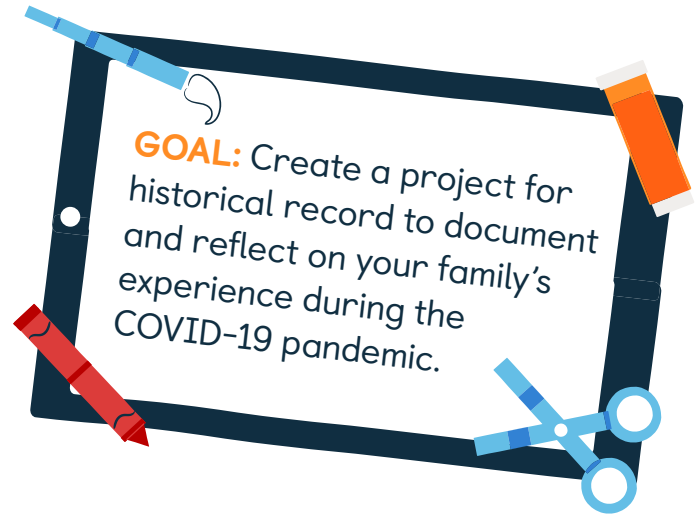
At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

Focus on Social and Emotional Learning: Family Project

Help your child develop important social-emotional skills by working on your family project!

For the past few weeks, your family has been working through different themes for your family project. This week, we invite your family to explore the theme **Building Connections**.



GOAL: Create a project for historical record to document and reflect on your family's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Empathy is one of the most important skills we can help children develop, even in their earliest years. Whether processing the pandemic or the protests that have swept our country, the ability to put ourselves in someone else's shoes to **try and understand what they're feeling** is vital. When we feel empathy for others, we're able to see perspectives beyond our own and show kindness and compassion. And when we're shown empathy, we **feel understood and less alone**.

Try this!

Instilling **empathy** in our children helps create a better world. This week, continue your family project by reflecting on and practicing empathy. It begins with understanding that the differences among people are **valuable**. Talk with your children about the importance of listening to and learning from others' life stories. What does it feel like to be treated unfairly because of how you look?



Ask your children **how they're feeling** and share your feelings with them. Then ask how it feels when others show concern for their feelings. What can they learn from that? What are some ways we can show others that we care about them and their feelings? Helping to develop empathy in your children is an important step in promoting **understanding and building connections**. Empathy is something that makes us and the community around us **stronger**!

At-Home Learning Guide for Discovery Preschoolers

Week of June 8, 2020

Note: In case you missed it, we released [Our Stay-at-Home Story: A KinderCare Family Project](#) in May. By working on your project together, you're helping your child develop important social-emotional skills in fun new ways, while building their communication skills, creativity, and confidence! Many of the project suggestions require little preparation and are perfect to weave into your regular day.

If you've opted out of the project, just talking about your common experiences is a great way to build your child's skills and come closer together as a family. Use the themes below as a conversation starter with your child. The most important part of social-emotional learning is creating an opportunity for sharing feelings and building community with others.

THEMES:

- **All the Feels:** Explore and identify your hopes, worries, gratitude, or frustrations.
- **Building Connections:** Find a way to embrace your family and community from a distance.
- **What Is Essential:** Redefine what *essential* means through your everyday actions.
- **Flexible Mindsets:** How are you learning and growing together as a family?
- **Who Are the Helpers:** Who is helping us? How are we helping others?

