

AUGUST 2023

# Family Newsletter

IT'S BEE MONTH!

## August Book List

**The Life and Times of the Honeybee** by

*Charles Micucci*

**Give Bees a Chance** by *Bethany Barton*

**What on Earth? Bees** by *Andrea Quigley*

**Are You a Bee** by *Judy Allen*

**Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book**

by *Britta Techenentrup*

**Explore My World: Honey Bees** by *Jill*

*Esbaum*

**Please Please the Bees** by *Gerald Kelley*

**Five Bizzy Honey Bees - The Fun and**

**Factual Life of the Honey Bee**

by *Lance Douglas*



**Because I Love You** by *Sandra Magsamen*

**The Bee Book** by *Charlotte Milner*

**Buzzy Bee: A Slide-and-Seek Book** by

*Little Bee Books*

**The Honeybee** by *Kirsten Hall*


**Little Yellow Bee Chunky Lift-a-Flap**

**Board Book** by *Ginger Swift*

**Little Been: Finger Puppet Book** by

*Chronicle Books*

**Little Bee** by *Edward Gibbs*

**WELCOME TO OUR FINAL MONTH OF SUMMER!** At the center we are celebrating BEE MONTH! As pollinators, bees are an important part of our ecosystem - and we think they're pretty cute too! Keep an eye out in the center for more bee activities and fun as we celebrate BEE MONTH. 

As we begin to shift to fall planning and back to school, we are often asked for tips for a smooth transition to care. Here are a few ideas to start now to get your kids ready!

CREATE A FAMILY PLAN FOR SAYING GOODBYE - Whether a special handshake, a hug or a "See you later alligator", make your plan and stick to it. Consistency is key here; children will learn the routine and understand what to expect.

TALK ABOUT IT! - Back to school can bring new worries for our kids. Using open ended questions to understand what they might be feeling is a great way to help ease their concerns.

RESET BEDTIME - Slowly move bedtime earlier by 5 or 10 minutes a day to be sure your child is ready and rested for back to school.

PRACTICE INDEPENDENCE - Dressing themselves, drinking from a cup, feeding themselves are all great examples of activities they might be asked to do on their own.

# For Grins



  
**What bee is good for your health?**

(Answer on page 2)



# BRINGING IT HOME

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



## Honey Slime

*This slime can be made using just 3 ingredients you likely already have in the house!*

### Supplies:

- Honey\*
- Cornstarch
- Vegetable Oil



### Directions:

To make the slime heat honey in the microwave for 45 seconds. You will then add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch, mix until it is completely incorporated into the honey, and then add 2 more tablespoons and repeat until it is no longer sticky and is a cohesive mixture. If it is still sticking to your hands after 2 minutes, add a bit more cornstarch! Add in vegetable oil as needed until the Honey Slime becomes stretchy, but not sticky. This "slime" is thicker than most glue-based formulas but is stretchier than playdough and completely edible! To avoid it sticking to your hands, try dipping them in cornstarch or a bit of vegetable oil before exploring.

*\*Reminder: Honey is not to be ingested by children under the age of 1 due to the risks associated with Clostridium bacteria exposure.*

## Potato Masher Bee Stamping

*Children can make adorable bumblebee process art using materials found at home in the kitchen!*

### Supplies:

- White or Blue Construction Paper
- Yellow Paint
- Plate
- Potato Masher



### Directions:

Lay out white or blue construction paper, put some yellow paint out on a plate, and then guide your child to dip the potato masher into the paint and stamp as many bee bodies as they would like to onto their paper. When the paint dries, children may use markers, crayons, colored pencils, or more paint to give their bees stripes. They could also choose to draw eyes and wings on their bees, but if the option is available, they can glue googly eyes and wings cut out of paper onto their bees to make their art three dimensional!

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HONEYBEES EAT?

Most of us associate bees with plants, flowers, and their desire for sweet foods, but why are bees always hanging around plants? Plants attract bees and other creatures like insects and birds to their flowers with a sweet liquid called **NECTAR**. Bees drink and store the nectar to take back to their hive to make **BEE BREAD** and honey to feed the bee colony. Bees also collect **POLLEN** from plants to take it back to the hive to make bee bread. As bees collect pollen from plants, they move from flower to flower spreading the pollen to different plants resulting in pollination. Not only do bees get food for the hive, but plants are also pollinated which allows them to reproduce!



**NECTAR:** a sugar-rich liquid produced by plants to encourage pollination by bees, insects, birds, and other animals.

**POLLEN:** a powdery substance produced by flowers needed for reproduction.

**BEE BREAD:** a mixture of pollen and nectar or honey which is the main source of food for bees and their larvae.

**ROYAL JELLY:** a substance produced by honeybees and fed to certain larvae being raised as potential queen bees.

For Grins Answer: Vitamin Bee!