TIPS FOR THE READER

In this kit, you will find a wonderful children’s book and practical resources you can use to help a child develop important lifelong skills. Use these tips to engage the child in talking about the story, further developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. Finally, use the provided materials and Activity Instructions to extend and practice new skills.

BUGS! BUGS! BUGS! BY BOB BARNER

Pretty ladybugs, fluttering butterflies, creepy daddy longlegs, and roly-poly bugs are some of the familiar creatures featured in this whimsically illustrated insect album. Complete with an “actual size” chart and bug-o-meter listing fun facts about each bug, Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! will inform and entertain curious little bug lovers everywhere.

Themes covered: nature, bugs, colors, numbers

Skills developed: vocabulary, counting, color recognition, matching, writing

Verbal Prompts

Before reading, ask...

✦ Who can tell me the name of a bug? What’s another one? Etc.
✦ What is your favorite bug? Why?
✦ What color is your favorite bug?
✦ Can you pet a bug?
✦ Let’s read about some bugs.

While reading...

✦ Point to different bugs and ask questions like:
  • What color is this bug?
  • How many legs does this bug have?
  • Does this bug crawl or fly?
  • How does this bug catch its food?

After reading, ask...

✦ Which bug had lots of legs?
✦ Which bug was red with black dots on its back?
✦ What happened to the caterpillar?
✦ Where does the grasshopper live?

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Bob Barner
MAKING PLAYDOUGH BUGS
Help children be creative and get excited about bugs with this playdough activity!

Supplies You’ll Need
- Pipe cleaners cut into 1-3 inch segments
- Drinking straws cut into 1-2 inch segments
- Googly eyes
- 3-4 colors of playdough (You can buy playdough or make 3-4 batches using the recipe below.)
- Coffee cans or plastic tubs with lids
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Playdough Recipe
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 tbs oil
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 drops liquid food coloring

Kit Assembly Instructions
1. Combine flour and salt.
2. Add water, food coloring and oil. Mix until ingredients are combined.
4. If consistency is too wet add a little flour.
5. Put each color in a separate container with lid.
MAKING PLAYDOUGH BUGS
Help children be creative and get excited about bugs with this playdough activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Set up tables with containers of different colors of playdough, pieces of pipe cleaner, and straws.

2. Ask the children to make bugs. They might look like the image below.

3. While the children work, ask questions like:
   - What kind of bug are you making?
   - What colors are you using?
   - How many legs does your bug have?

4. Children can make their own ladybug eyes out of playdough, if they wish. They can also mix playdough colors as they create their bug.

![Image of a playdough bug](image-url)
FELT BOARD LADYBUGS FOR SMALL GROUP
Help children practice counting by creating these felt board ladybugs!

**Supplies You’ll Need**
- Templates of ladybug body and wings
- Black and red felt
- Hot glue gun and regular glue
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Eight small bags per kit
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

**Kit Assembly Instructions**
1. Cut out the templates.
2. Place the body template on top of the black felt and cut around it.
3. Place the wings on the red felt and cut around them. Repeat 8 times
4. Hot glue the wings and googly eyes in place, as shown in photo below.
5. Repeat to make 8 ladybugs.
6. Cut 10 dots from the scraps of black felt for each ladybug (80 dots). You might prefer to get a half inch hole punch for this task.
7. Fill eight bags with one ladybug along with 10 dots.
8. Include the book and Tips for the Reader in the kit.

_Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!_ by Bob Barner
FELT BOARD LADYBUGS FOR SMALL GROUP
Help children practice counting by creating these felt board ladybugs!

Follow These Steps

1. Give each child a bag.

2. Ask them to take out the body and the dots.

3. Ask them to put six dots on their ladybug's wings.
   Repeat with other numbers 1-10.

4. If an odd number is used, ask which wing has more dots or less dots.

5. When you’re done practicing counting different numbers, let the children glue the dots on their ladybug.
COUNTING LADYBUG SPOTS (AGES 0-2)
Help young children begin to learn about numbers with this spot counting activity!

Supplies You’ll Need
- Template of the ladybug
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Small black craft pom poms
- 3x5 notecards
- Permanent marker
- Tape
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions
1. Make copies of the template. Cut around the ladybug, if desired.
2. Put the template, a glue stick, and 10 pom poms in the bag.
3. Include the book and Tips for the Reader in the kit.
COUNTING LADYBUG SPOTS (AGES 0-2)
Help young children begin to learn about numbers with this spot counting activity!

Follow These Steps

Glue the pompoms on the ladybug and then count the spots with the child.
MATCHING AND WRITING NUMBERS
(AGES 3-5)
Help children learn the words for numbers with this number matching activity!

**Supplies You’ll Need**

- Template of the ladybugs and numbers

**Kit Assembly Instructions**

1. Make copies of the template with the ladybugs, numbers and a column for spelling the number.

2. Include the book and *Tips for the Reader* in the kit.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draw a line from the number to the ladybug with the same number of dots</th>
<th>Spell the number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Ladybug 1" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Ladybug 2" /></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Ladybug 3" /></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Ladybug 4" /></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Ladybug 5" /></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Ladybug 6" /></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Ladybug 7" /></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MATCHING AND WRITING NUMBERS (AGES 3-5)

Help children learn the words for numbers with this number matching activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Ask the child to draw a line from the number to the ladybug with the same number of dots.

2. Have the child spell out the number on the line next to it. For example, next to “1,” the child can spell “one.” You may want to print the number on another piece of paper for the child to copy.