

Things One Sees On the Ground: "Bugs" Unit

"In a patch of grass so cool and green, many little creatures can be seen."

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Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four -Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 1: Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Logic (pg. 25)

*The child will make observations, separate objects into groups based on similar attributes, develop questions based upon observations using the five senses.

II. Concepts to be taught:

1. Understand the concepts of "on" and "down" as in "on the ground" or look "down on the ground" below.
2. Describe what one sees by verbalizing or pointing to when named by teacher.
3. Understand that the "grass or ground" has a community of living creatures that live there.
4. Vocabulary and Visual Discrimination: "Camouflaged" (being all dressed up) by how the bug looks so other animals won't eat it. "Now you see me, now you don't"

III. Books that can be Read:

A. Books that I own:

1. In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
2. The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle
3. The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle
4. The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle
5. Over in the Meadow by Ezra J. Keats
6. The Very Friendly Firefly by Jack Tickle (a pop-up book)
7. Busy Bee by Marta Berowska (a large wiggle eye book)
8. Little Ladybug by Marta Berowska (a large wiggle eye book)
9. Fiddling Cricket by Marta Berowska (a large wiggle eye book)

III. Books to be read continued:

10. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

B. Additional Books to read:

11. Mowing by Jessie Haas

12. Brown Cow, Green Grass, Yellow Mellow Sun by Ellen Jackson

13. A House of Leaves by Kiyashi Soya

14. The Green Grass Grows All Around by Hilde Hoffman

15. Bugs, Bugs, Bugs! By Bob Barner

C. Teacher Made Books

1. *Going on a Bug Hunt* put in book form by Teresa Williams

2. *Over In The Meadow* (to go with Raffi's song) by Teresa Williams

IV. Props That Can Be Used:

1. Bug house

2. Plastic Bug house with sound

3. Plastic fake bugs and worms

4. Magnifying glass

5. Plastic Tweezers

6 Green Plastic Straws /Grass from Spring Unit

7. Toilet Tissue Roll binoculars

8. Use Classroom Water/Sand Table

V. Activities:

1. **Go on a bug hunt:** Go outside to go on a bug hunt

2. **Sandbox/Water Table Bug Expedition:** Put green Easter Grass the table, put in plastic bugs, and have the children find the bugs and use the tweezers to put the fake bug in bug house.

3. **Grow Grass:** Plant grass seeds in a cup and watch it grow

4. **Barefoot on the Grass:** This activity can be done over at least 2 days.

- Use a piece of white construction paper, have the children sponge paint it green ,
- Then place glue of green crepe paper on the wet paint (it will adhere to the wet paint) allow to dry,
- Finally paint the child's foot in brown paint and let them walk on the dried paper.

V. Activities Continued:

5. "Things in the Grass" Collage:

- Take green construction paper, one for each child
- Use additional green construction paper makes green strips of grass. Child can tear the strips or cut the strips.
- Use a Xeroxed copy of bugs (color and cut out) or bug stickers.

One can make bug stickers with sticker computer paper and clip art found on the computer. Print, unpeel your bugs and there you go.

- Put the bugs on green paper, add the strips of grass

6. Graph: Do you like bugs? Teacher makes chart. Trace hands

One side is yes/ the other side is no. Put hands under one or the other. Count the graph of hands

7. Describe Bugs: Body Parts on Fake bugs

- **Body Parts:**
 1. Head
 2. Thorax
 3. Abdomen
 4. Does it have Antennae?
 5. Does it have 6 Legs?
 6. Does it have wings?

8. Snakes in the Grass: Take a paper plate and cut in out in a swirl pattern to make snake, fasten them along the class bulletin board

9. Thumbprint Ladybugs: Thumbprint red ladybugs. When dry add legs and black dots

10. Where is Ladybug? A Preschool Mailbox, April /May, 1995 issue, pages 14-17 Color and add ladybug stickers where the book directs. (Uses: in, above, on, under, and beside.

11. Grouchy Ladybug Time Sequence Cards: Preschool Mailbox, Apr/May, 2006

12. Paper Ladybug. Make a ladybug pattern out of red paper, Add wax paper wings, and finger paint or draw black dots, add black legs and antennae

13. Thumb prints yellow bubble bees. Add black strips for tail and draw a stinger

14. Cricket Music; Give children sand paper and glue it onto card stock or cardboard: Now they can make music like the cricket does

15, Listen to nature sounds on CD's or records (I downloaded off of Real Music nature sounds)

V. Activities Continued:

16, **Caterpillar /Butterfly Activities:** I have so many they are in my: Very Hungry Caterpillar Unit

17. **Make the color green:** mix yellow and blue paint to make green, Paint with fingers in a downward motion to make grass on white construction paper.

18. **Make worm prints with yarn. :** put yarn in paint Make tracts across the construction paper

19. **Yarn worms:** put yarn in liquid starch or glue (its sticky) and place it on paper

VI. Games;

1. Teacher made Folder Games:

- Color Matching Ladybugs from Preschool Mailbox Aug/Sept 2007
- Number Matching Ladybugs Preschool Mailbox Aug/Sept 2007

2. Play "Cootie Bug" Game

VII. Food

1. Make Dirt desert:

- One cup per child.
- a few spoons of chocolate pudding
- add crumbled up Oreo cookies
- add gummy bugs or gummy worms +

Bug-a-meter	Beetle	Cricket	Butterfly	Grasshopper
Does it have wings?	No	No	No	Yes
How many legs?	6	6	6	6
What does it eat?	dirt	grass	flower juice/nectar	plants, leaves, katydids
Where does it live ?	underground	in the grass	near flowers	in the grass, meadows

