

# Nature Play at Home – Lesson Plan



Lesson Title: **Busy Bees**

Supplies Needed: coloured paper, glue, straws, tape, cheezies, paper towels

Lesson Activities:

Introduce this lesson with the following poem:

## **Bee**

BUZZ! goes the bee,  
Hour after hour,  
BUZZ! goes the bee  
From flower to flower.  
Sucking out the nectar  
Flying it home.  
Storing up the nectar  
In the honeycomb

**Play the game “Bee Facts” where the kids will run to one side of your playing area marked “true” or the other side marked “false”. Read the following Bee Facts and have the children run to either the true side or the false side:**

- Bees are found all over the world. *False*. Reasoning: bees are found all over the world except the Antarctica
- Bees have a long and complex tongue that helps them to get the nectar from the flowers. *True*.
- A colony of bees are run by a king bee. *False*. Reasoning: They are run by queen bees. A colony has a queen, many worker bees (all female) & male bees. Each worker bee has their own job to do.
- Male bees are called drones. *True*.
- Bees are awake during the winter. *True*. They keep the hive warm & safe!
- If you stand near a beehive, the bees will go after you. *False*. Honeybees around the hive are going out to look for flowers & have no interest in people!
- Bees have five eyes. *True*. Reasoning: All insects have two large compound eyes on either side of their heads and three simple eyes on the top of their head.
- You can tell a bee’s age by its wings. *True*. Reasoning: Worker bees only live for 6 weeks during the summer; they work themselves too hard. In old bees, the wings and other body parts become frayed and tattered as they wear out.
- There are over 100 types of bees in the world. *True*. There are actually about 20,000 known species of bees, with probably more to be discovered.

**Teach some information on Honeybees:**

- 1-2 days old they spend their time cleaning cells, starting with the one they were born in, and keeping the brood warm (the egg they were born in)
- 3-5 days old, they feed older larvae (a term for an older bee)
- 6-11 days old they feed the youngest larvae

- 12-17 they produce wax, build combs, carry food, & perform undertaker duties
- 18-21 they perform guard duty, protecting the hive entrance
- 22- death (40-45 days) they fly from the hive collecting pollen, nectar, water, & pollinating plants

#### **Make a craft: Flower**

- Each participant gets around 10 strips of paper and one large circle (colour of their choice).
- Glue the ends of the paper strips together, making a paper loop.
- Glue the loops on one side of the paper circle.
- Tape the straw on the back.



#### **Pollination Activity:**

We have been learning about bees and how they make honey. They first drink nectar from flowers to help make the honey. When a bee sits on the flower, pollen gets stuck to his legs. When he flies to another flower, the pollen on his legs fall off onto that next flower which pollinates that new flower!

Then do the pollination activity below.

1. Each child gets a flower (use flower craft) and a piece of paper towel
2. Put a handful of cheezies on each paper towel
3. Allow them to snack on a few cheezies but **ensure they do not lick or wipe off their fingers!!**
4. Once everyone has gathered "pollen" (Cheezie dust) on their fingers, tell them their fingers represent the bee's legs.
5. Tell them to fly to a friend's flower and land on it. Some pollen will be left behind on the flower
6. They have successfully pollinated a flower! Repeat as many times as you see fit.

#### **I'm A Little Honeybee**

(to the tune of "I'm A Little Tea Pot")

I'm a little honeybee

Yellow and black

See me gather

Pollen on my back

What the queen bee tells me

I must do

So I can make sweet honey for you!

#### **Do You Like To Buzz?**

(Tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?")

Do you like to buzz,

Are you covered all in fuzz?

Do you call a hive a home

In the Garden where you roam?

Do you know how to make honey,

Are your stripes a little funny?

Do you like to buzz?