



Playgroup SA

Playgroup Weekly Session Planner

Insects - Ants

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

There are more than 12 000 species of Ants in the world. Ants are social insects that live in colonies or groups. The Queen Ant has wings and is the only one to lay eggs. Ants don't have ears, they hear by feeling vibrations.

Craft activity: Creepy Crawly Ant

Children will need: Egg cartons, paint, paint brushes, pipe cleaners, googly eye stickers, scissors.

Instructions: Ants have 3 main body parts, so cut egg cartons into 3 cup sizes. Paint the ant in whatever colour you would like. Make small incisions in each cup on both sides and two in its head, to add the legs and antennae.

Extension ideas:

Using Bamboo spoons – place two spoons together with the bowls at either end. Wrap the pipe cleaners around the stems of the spoon, leaving enough of the pipe cleaner out, to bend into legs as you go, you will need to use multiple pipe cleaners to reach the end and adding in the legs as you go. Great for Fine Motor Skills.

Fact: Ants can carry up to 20 times their own body weight!



Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Try a little experiment – What do Ants like to eat? Get a tray – something like an old paint pallet. Put some breadcrumbs, honey, a piece of orange, cheese, and raisins into the sections and leave outside near an Ant trail at the beginning of Playgroup. Leave until halfway through Playgroup and then go outside to investigate if any of the Ants have started to take any of the food. If no activity, leave for a little longer. Check just before Group Time.

SENSORY ACTIVITY

Sand Tray

You will need: Deep Tray, sand, small tongs, items to hide in the sand such as pebbles, leaves, small sticks, bowls. If you have some plastic insects and bugs hide them in the sand too.

Instructions: Forage like an ant in the sand what can you find using the tongs as your pinchers to pick up the items hidden in the sand.

GROUP TIME IDEAS

If you have tried the “What do Ants like to eat?” Experiment – talk about what the ants seemed to like the most.

What they liked the least.

Did they carry anything off to the colony?



BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Are you an Ant? By Judy Allen & Tudor Humphries, Alex the Ant Goes to the Beach by Eric Wayne Dickery & Abbey Paccia

