



## Branch Newsletter

Boy-oh-boy has the month of June been one wild ride, but we wouldn't change a thing! For weeks the Brancher's have been anxiously waiting for the new playground to be built, and finally the time had come! We were so excited for construction to begin, even though it meant that we would be stuck inside for a couple of days. Staying inside proved to be a challenge, but it was one that the Brancher's were ready to face! Even though it was hard to stay cooped up, the Branch room was able to get through it together. These kiddos crushed it! We also enjoyed getting a first hand look at the how the new playground was built. The Branch room was glued to the windows and 'observed' the construction workers. We were so grateful for all the hard work the construction workers were doing that we wanted to do something to thank them. So, lemonade and cookies it was! As a class, we made some refreshing lemonade and warm cookies for the workers to enjoy. But all of that wouldn't have been complete without a handmade thank you card! The Branch room was so excited to show their thankfulness to the crew- it was such a special moment for the class, as well as the workers! As much as we loved the construction process, we were so ready to head out there and play. The Branch room is over the moon and having a blast exploring the new playground!

The playground remodel wasn't the only exciting thing we had going on this month! This month we learned all about Insects & Arachnids! This is one of our favorite studies in the Branch classroom, because the kids are always so focused on learning new and fun information about these interesting creatures. Each time we do this lesson, we find that the kids become bug obsessed! They love to run outside and see what kind of bugs they can discover. It makes the study very hands-on and interactive.

To start the study, we learned all about butterflies! In the previous month, we were able to watch the butterfly lifecycle happen right before our eyes. We had developed a basic understanding of butterflies which allowed us to dig deeper into caterpillars and butterflies this month. We talked all about the various body parts, types, and habitats of beautiful butterflies. We even were able to talk about the differences between butterflies and moths, which as we know are commonly mistaken for each other. We even created some butterflies of our very own to hang in our windows. These butterflies were made by creating 'stained glass' wings with our warming tray and then cutting out a black outline of a butterfly. This activity took a lot of hard work and focus- but the butterflies turned out so beautiful!

We also discovered all about bees and how hard workers they are. The Branch room loved to learn about the various types of bees there are and how each one has a job to do- just like our

Brancher's! But of course, we couldn't learn about bees without taking some time to learn about the sweet, sweet honey they make. The Branch classroom were in awe of how fast bees work together to produce a food that we love to eat. After learning about the process, we only thought it was fair to sample a little honey ourselves! So, a honey taste test it was! We found that the majority of the classroom enjoyed the taste of honey. Some of the describing words they chose were sweet, sticky and gooey! The bee study wouldn't have been complete without creating something extra special. We were able to create some pretty awesome popsicle bumblebees! Each Brancher glued together popsicle sticks, and then painted them with a black and yellow pattern. Then they cut out wings and added some eyes to make pretty cute bees. Not only did this activity incorporate a ton of fine-motor skills, but it also allowed us to work with some math. We were able to count out the number of popsicles we were using and explore patterns while we were painting. These kinds of activities really grasp the kid's attention and focus, while also being fun!

Next, we explored ladybugs! To make this portion of the study interactive, we decided to order our very own ladybugs for the Branch classroom. Ladybugs are quite interesting, especially because they have such amazing lifecycles! And we were able to see this lifecycle happen right before our eyes. Over the course of the week, we were able to see the ladybug larva transform into ladybugs! It was a slow process, but we really did enjoy seeing all the changes that occur in a ladybug's life. After taking such great care of our ladybugs, it was time to say goodbye and release them. The Branch classroom decided that it would be best to release the ladybugs onto the Willow tree so that they could munch on some delicious Aphids!

The month wouldn't have been complete without learning about spiders! A common misconception about spiders, is that people often mistake them for insects. Well, as the Branch room discovers, spiders are not actually insects but are arachnids instead! We learned that insects have six legs, and that spiders actually have eight! Which classifies them as arachnids. It was hilarious to hear all the Brancher's pronounce arachnids and boy did they love saying it... everyday, every hour! We loved their enthusiasm. After learning about what makes a spider a spider, we were able to learn about some of the interesting things that they do, such as spinning webs! We discovered that a spider has a ton of uses for its 'silk'. Ask your Brancher if they can tell you some of the way spiders use their silk!

We could go on and on about this month's study, but you'd be reading forever! We learned so much over the course of the month, but we enjoyed every moment. The Branch classroom did a great job at soaking up all this new information! It was great to hear them applying what they learned while outside on 'bug hunts'. It seems like each month the Brancher's are more and more eager to learn. They are growing up right before our eyes and we are so proud of the accomplishments they have made. Summer has officially kicked off to a great start! Next up, we will be studying all about... Space! We are so excited to show the Brancher's, and you, the activities we have planned for them

- Miss Kenzie & Miss Heather

