

THE MONTHLY

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

BRANCH

July 1, 2020

Dear Families,

June has come and gone...just like that!

Not only have we anticipated summer and beautiful weather, but we have also anticipated a fun month of learning! We ended May with caterpillars and butterflies as we witnessed firsthand their amazing life cycle! What a nice way to gear up for June, as we focused on exploring 'Insects & Arachnids'.

Dragonflies and Damselflies were our first area of study! It was amazing to witness just how quickly the Branchers picked up on the differences and similarities between the two insects! All though they are extremely similar, the Branchers were able to discover that they show differences in their eyes, wings, and body size. Before we knew it, the Branchers were spotting the winged wonders and showing us examples of dragonflies and damselflies around the classroom and within books provided in the library. It was great to see the children focus in on the little details that made them different but alike. To incorporate a more hands-on learning experience, we created both damselfly and dragonfly artwork. Each Brancher was asked to cut out two pairs of different wings, and decorate two different sized popsicle sticks and finally, chose two different sets googly eyes! This was a great project because it incorporated so much fine motor skills and allowed each Brancher to thoroughly explore each insect!

The next part of our study found us exploring spiders! A common misconception about spiders, is that people often mistake them for insects. Well, as the Branch room discovered, spiders are not actually insects but are arachnids! We learned that insects have six legs, and that spiders have eight legs! This distinction classifies them as arachnids. After discovering the characteristics of the spider, we were able to learn some interesting facts about spiders, such as spinning webs! We discovered that a spider has a lot of uses for its 'silk'. Ask your Brancher if they can tell you some of the way spiders use their silk! Before we could move

on to the next insect, we of course had to create our own arachnids! Each Brancher cut out a circle (for the body) and cut eight strips of paper, one for each of the arachnid's legs! The Branchers practiced their hand eye coordination as they accordion folded each leg. We discovered that arachnids could have up to eight eyes, so lastly each brancher chose eight googly eyes and stuck them on their creepy crawly creations!

Next, we explored ladybugs! During our outdoor investigations we discovered lady bugs out by the Willow Tree! Ladybugs are quite interesting, especially because they have such amazing lifecycles! Fortunately, we were able to watch this lifecycle happen right before our eyes from eggs to ladybug. It was a slow process, but we really did enjoy seeing all the changes that occur in a ladybug's life. While exploring and discovering outside, each Brancher was able to put their searching skills to the test as they looked for eggs, larva, pupas, and even full-grown ladybugs!



The Branchers concluded that ladybugs love our Willow Tree because the ladybugs have taken over! Our ladybug AKA ladybird beetle week turned out to be quite intriguing!





June concluded with Bee education and exploration! We created our very own popsicle stick buzzy bees, created some fun open art hexagon shape hives, and even put our taste buds to the test as the Branchers participated in a honey taste test! Yummy!



We could go on and on about this month's study because it was packed with learning and discovery! We learned so much over the course of the month, and 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 insect hunts. Make sure you ask your Brancher some of the fun facts they learned regarding insects/arachnids throughout the month!

It seems like each month the Brancher's are more and more eager to learn and they have perfected the art of retaining information! 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...Space! We are so eager to take the Branchers on their first Space exploration...it will be "Out of this World"

Ms. Heather & Ms. Kenzie

JULY, 2019



TO INFINITY.....AND BEYOND

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JULY 3RD			SPACE FROM A-Z	SPECTACULAR SPACE GRAPHING	CLOSED
G.T. CLOSED	MOON PHASE MATHEMATICAL BOARD	MOON SAND TEXTURE TESTING	MOON WALK SPACE DANCE	"IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MOON"	MOON ROCKS & SPACE SLIME
	MAGNIFICENT MARBLED PLANETS	MARSHMALLOW SUPER STAR CONSTELLATION	ALPHABET STAR SEARCH	SOLAR SYSTEM SUN CATCHERS	SUPER NOVA COLOR BLEND
	ASTRONAUT... WHAT DO YOU SEE?	NAME BLOCK BLAST OFF!	GLOW IN THE DARK PLAYDOUGH	SPACE OUT SENSORY BOTTLES	SUPER STRAW ROCKETS
	OUR SUN IS...	GRAVITY SCIENCE TESTING	RACE TO THE MOON	SPACE FOOD TASTE TEST	TO INFINITY & BEYOND

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