

Dear Families,

A big thank you to our Blossom families who made our human body study a success this last month. It was a pleasure to share time with you in the classroom and to see the pride your child has in you and you for your child! The Blossoms became body experts during May, exploring the digestive system, circulation and our brains. There is nothing more exciting than sitting at your child's lunch table and hearing a discussion about their 'esophagus's' occurring impromptu! Throughout the month we followed food's journey through the body, we became white blood cells, to save red blood cells from the attacking viruses and germs, we listened to our hearts, our lungs and our stomachs, and we discussed safe and healthy touch.

As we began our life cycle study we noticed the Blossoms were especially interested in insects. We've decided to follow their interest by devoting the next few weeks to learning, examining, identifying and exploring insects. Our classroom has five hanging chrysalides, an 'ootheca' (the nest and eggs of a praying mantis) and each day we discover more 'catch-and-release' insects to observe and investigate. We'll discuss the life cycles of some of our most familiar insects, we'll learn the various kinds of insect homes, create insect art, books, and stories, we'll sort and classify insects by their characteristics, and we'll play many insect games to help us better understand our relationship with some of the 10,000,000 kinds of insects that inhabit our world. What makes insects important to our environment? How can some insects spread diseases in parts of the world, while others can save crops from being destroyed? What kinds of insects can swim and fly? And how do insects care for their young? When children ask questions and seek answers they are truly experiencing the root of learning and inquiry. We hope this wet spring and winter will produce lots of 'living artifacts' for us right in our own backyard. If you happen to find a bug at home however, we'd love to see and share what you've discovered.

Please remember to bring a small blanket and pillow, each day, for your child and to launder your child's items weekly. This is an important part of your child's routine and sense of independence during rest time.

Growing Tree is a play-based child care center and during the summer we play in sand, water, soil, grass and with paint and other materials that are messy and fun. Please dress your child appropriately for their days here together. A light jacket is needed EVERYDAY, even on the hottest of days – the weather can be unpredictable and cloud cover or afternoon storms and wind can drop temperatures by over 15 degrees, making a t-shirt and shorts alone very uncomfortable for your child during outdoor play.

Our afternoon aide, Salina, will be leaving Growing Tree to pursue other interests. Thank you Salina for your support and we wish you well.

As always, please feel free to talk with us at anytime and share your questions, concerns or ideas with us. We are here to help best support your children and accommodate your requests.

All the best to you!

Your Blossom Teachers, Lane, Caroline, Linda, Salina

June '17

What do we know about Insects?

Notes:

June 18 - Father's Day



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
What do we know about the insects? What are the characteristics of familiar insects? What do we know about their life cycles?				
5	6	7	8	9
What do we know about insects homes? Where do insects live? Why? What makes some insects homes unique?				
12	13	14	15	16
What can insects do? What is polination? How do insects effect the environment around us?				
19	20	21	22	23
What do insects need? What do most insect need for life? How do humans effect the environment and cycles of insects?				
26	27	28	29	30
What do we know about insects? What did we learn about insects? What else do we want to know? How will we find out?				

