



Branch July, 2018 Newsletter

The first month of summer has been an absolute blast! This month was all geared towards learning all about insects and arachnids. The Branch kids soaked up every second of it! It was so fun to see the kids so excited and eager to learn new things. Since we get to see insects every single day out on the playground; it made it even more exciting for the Branch kids. They were able to take the newfound knowledge and apply it to the insects and arachnids they found while out on our adventures! The month started by learning about butterflies and their life cycle. The Branch room was given the exciting opportunity to grow their very own butterflies inside the classroom; which brought to life everything we were studying and gave the kids the perfect way to explore butterflies! When our caterpillars arrived in the classroom, we decided it was only fitting to name our new short-term pets. Through a trial of voting, we landed on the names Sharla, Charlotte, Shelly, Spiky and Pete. We knew our caterpillars would have some stylish names given that the Branch kids are pretty awesome themselves. In the following weeks, we were able to watch the caterpillars grow, enter the pupa stage, form their chrysalis, and come out as beautiful Painted Ladies! After some love and care, the butterflies were ready to leave the Branch room. It typical Branch fashion, we said goodbye to the butterflies in style by going outside and cheering them on as they took their first flights. It was such a fun, and hands-on learning experience!

We then went on to learn about the difference between Dragonflies and Damselflies. We were shocked by how quickly the kids picked up on the differences 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 size. Before we knew it the kids were running around and showing us examples of dragonflies and damselflies around the classroom and in their books. It was great to see the children focus in on the little details that separated the two species. To incorporate a more hands-on learning experiences, we created Dragonfly artwork. To create them, we cut out a pair of wings, and then decorated the wings with tissue paper and attached them to large popsicle sticks. This was a great project because it incorporated so much fine motor skills and also got the kids thinking more about Dragonflies!

To continue our study, we dove into ladybugs! And what perfect timing it was too; because the Branch kids quickly learned that there were tons of Ladybug larva outside by our

Weeping Willow tree! Each day we would learn more about the life cycle of the Ladybug and the kids were able to run outside and experience it for themselves! The kids loved learning about Ladybugs, and they especially learned to love the word, Aphid, aka Ladybug food. We cannot tell you how many times we heard the word Aphid in a day! Isn't it funny how kids latch on to certain vocabulary words? We love our Branchers, and how they constantly make us laugh with their large personalities!

The month has been so incredibly busy, but we have enjoyed how much the Branch kids have interacted and soaked in this study. We enjoyed it so much so, that we decided to continue on the Insect and Arachnid study into the following month of July. During the next few weeks, we will be moving on to Bees, Arachnids and the various different types, as well as Ants and Worms! This change in planning allows for us teachers to expand on the children's natural interests and continuing a classroom environment that is student-led and directed. We love that the Branch room is so excited about this study; and we can't wait to continue it! So, we say goodbye to June and hello to July!



Dates to remember:

Wednesday, July 4th - NO SCHOOL, HOLIDAY

Friday, July 6th - First Friday

Wednesday, July 25th - Growing Tree Bar-B-Que and Graduation. All families encouraged to attend.

- Ms. Kenzie, Ms. Heather & Ms. Stacie

