My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading *The Life and Times of the Ant*, a nonfiction selection that tells about ants and the way they live.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Take a walk through your neighborhood with your child. Point out different insects and animals that you see. Talk about how the animals interact with one another. Try to use some of the following words.

- social
- exchanges
- transport
- transfers

**Insects All Around Us**  Together, make a list of insects found around your home, in your neighborhood, or at a local park. Use the Internet or insect identification books for help. Then work together to make a chart to give information about the insects. You might want to include information such as what the insects look like, what they eat, and how they move.

**Pro or Con?**  Talk about ants and other insects with your child. Discuss ways that some insects are helpful and harmful. Is it possible to be both? Why have some insects come to be considered pests?

**CHALLENGE**  Help your child make a poster that lets others know why one type of insect should be considered our friend.
Home in a Jug  Read these steps with your child. Then work together to make a simple birdhouse to attract birds that will eat insect pests.

Home in a Jug

What You'll Need
- milk jug or carton
- string
- pencil
- craft glue

1. Cut a 1-inch hole in the milk jug for a door.
2. Add a perch for the birds to sit on. Make a 1/4-inch hole under the larger hole. Then insert the pencil in the small hole. Glue the perch in place.
3. Cut a two-foot piece of string and tie it to the jug handle. Then tie the birdhouse to a tree branch.

Who Lives There? Together, observe the birds that come to your birdhouse. Use a bird identification book to name the birds and learn more about them.

Book Links
- Sticky Burr: Adventures in Burrwood Forest, by John Lechner
- Living Color, by Steve Jenkins

Internet Challenge  Together, find a website that tells about another insect. Learn a few amazing and interesting new facts about it.