

Poetry Parties

• FOR LITTLES •

A colorful illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, in a garden. The boy is on the left, holding a yellow flower with a ladybug on it. The girl is on the right, holding a yellow flower with a bee on it. There are several other ladybugs and bees in the garden. A large spider is on the left, and a grasshopper is on the right. A banner in the center reads "Insects and Spiders".

Insects and Spiders



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

Written by The Good and the Beautiful Team

A Note to Parents

Why Poetry Parties?

Poetry is the language of the imagination. Poetry teaches a child, often in a fun, rhyming way, to express emotion. It inspires a child to laugh, and what better way for a young child to learn than through a fun time with his or her parent?

Poetry Parties for Littles is a simple guide to planning a special time of celebrating poetry and nature with your preschool-age child. Each themed party is laid out carefully and includes poetry, supply lists, and crafts with photographs and directions so that you can enjoy the party as much as your little one!

About this Book

This book is broken up into the following sections:

- * Ladybugs and Fireflies
- * Spiders and Flies
- * Up in the Sky: Bees, Dragonflies, and Butterflies
- * Down on the Ground: Ants, Grasshoppers, Caterpillars, and Other Insects That Crawl

Each section has poetry to share with your child, activities that go along with the poetry, and crafts. Follow the instructions in the [blue bubbles](#), read the poems aloud, and create the crafts. It is up to you to decide how much to do in each section. The most important thing is to enjoy this time with your child.

Party Guide

The Party

Each section can be hosted as one long party or broken into smaller parties. Each craft is set up to be completed by one child or multiple children. The supplies listed are per child.

We encourage you to complete the outdoor activities that appear throughout this party guide. Experiencing nature allows children to make a personal connection with what they are learning through play.

Party Preparation

1. Read through the “Supplies Needed” section and gather any supplies that you do not have at home.
2. Read through the “Additional Party Decorations” section and decide which decorations you want to use.
3. Decorate for the party and do the preparation section for each activity or craft.
4. Follow the instructions for the party in the [blue bubbles](#) that appear throughout this guide.



Ladybugs and Fireflies

SUPPLIES NEEDED



REMEMBER

You don't need to do all the crafts, activities, or decorations.

Ladybug Puppet (p. 9)

- * black and red construction paper
- * black washable paint
- * googly eyes
- * white string
- * white chalk marker
- * paper plate



Ladybug Fruit Cookies (p. 10)

- * cream cheese
- * round cookies
- * strawberries
- * blueberries



Firefly Suncatcher (p. 14)

- * yellow, green, and white washable paint
- * black construction paper
- * tracing paper
- * googly eyes (optional)

Markers, scissors, hole punch, tape, standard white paper, ruler, and glue should always be on hand and are not listed in the "Supplies Needed" sections.



Additional Party Decorations

Ladybug Decorations

- * Blow up red balloons and color black dots on them for the ladybugs.
- * Using a permanent marker, color red napkins with black dots.
- * Sprinkle black circles from a hole punch on a red tablecloth (or black and red dots on a white tablecloth).
- * Color black dots on red plastic cups for drinks.

Firefly Decorations

- * Blow up yellow balloons and draw black wings on them for the fireflies.
- * Using a permanent marker, color yellow napkins with black wings.
- * Sprinkle black circles from a hole punch on a yellow tablecloth.
- * Color black wings on yellow plastic cups for drinks.



Decorate your table with little mason jars of flowers, twigs, leaves, or grass.

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN!



Firefly Suncatcher

- * Cut two ovals, about three inches in length, from the black construction paper. You will also need to cut one circle for the firefly's head and two small strips for the antennae.
- * Cut a large oval out of the white tracing paper. Have your child dip his or her finger in the yellow paint and then the green paint and make dots that cover the oval.
- * Let this dry, then glue the pieces together as shown. Add googly eyes or make small fingerprint eyes with white paint.



Swish Away That Fly!

Shannen Yauger

Swish your tail, big brown cow;
That is what you are supposed to do
When the itty-bitty stinging fly
Comes too close to you!



The Zooming Fly!

Jenny Phillips

Almost quicker than my eye can see,
A fly zooms back and forth by me.
Two thin wings beat fast, it's true—
Three hundred times before I count to two.
That is what makes the buzzing sound
As the fly goes round and round.
Flying up, backwards, and side to side,
Wouldn't it be fun to ride on a fly?

Additional Activities



- * Create a spider web with string, spanning a door frame. The children can try to crawl through it without breaking it.
- * Use the fly swatter decorations and have the children “swat” flies in this book.





Do You Like to Buzz?

Unknown

(to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?")

Do you like to buzz?

Are you covered all in fuzz?

Do you call a hive a home

In the garden where you roam?

Do you know how to make honey?

Are your stripes a little funny?

Do you like to buzz?

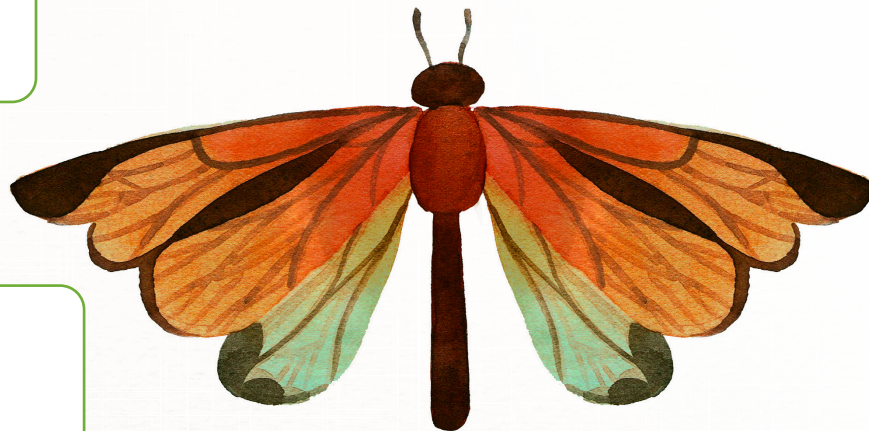
Butterfly Life Cycle

Jenny Phillips

I started as a tiny egg
Upon a leaf of green.
Unless you look very closely,
My eggs cannot be seen.



I hatch into a caterpillar
And slowly, slowly crawl.
I munch and munch
And eat and eat
The nice leaves big and small.



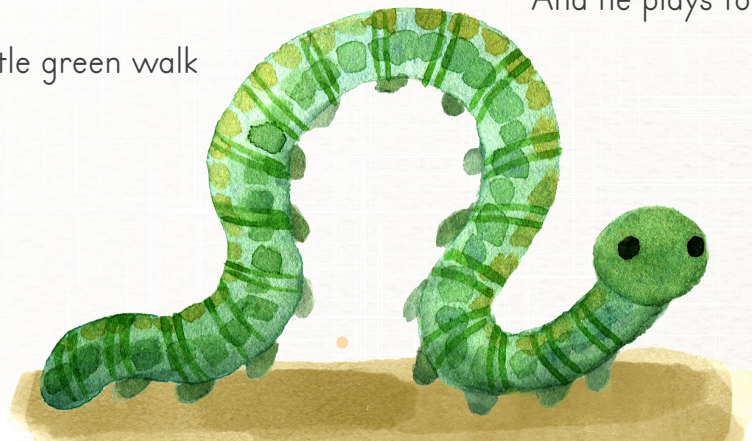
Then I hang by silken thread
And upside down I twist.
It isn't long until I'm now
A hardened chrysalis.

Inch-Worm

Dorothy Aldis

Little green inch-worm,
Inch-worm, inch.
You can't hurt me;
You don't pinch.
Never did anyone
Any harm
So take your little green walk
Up my arm.

Inchworms
are not really
worms!
They are
caterpillars
that look odd
when they
move because
they have
legs at both
ends of their
bodies.



Cricket

Maggie Felsch

Little black cricket
Hides in the thicket,
Playing his lullaby song.
Soon my eyes close,
My mind starts to doze,
And he plays for me all night long.



Cricket Hat

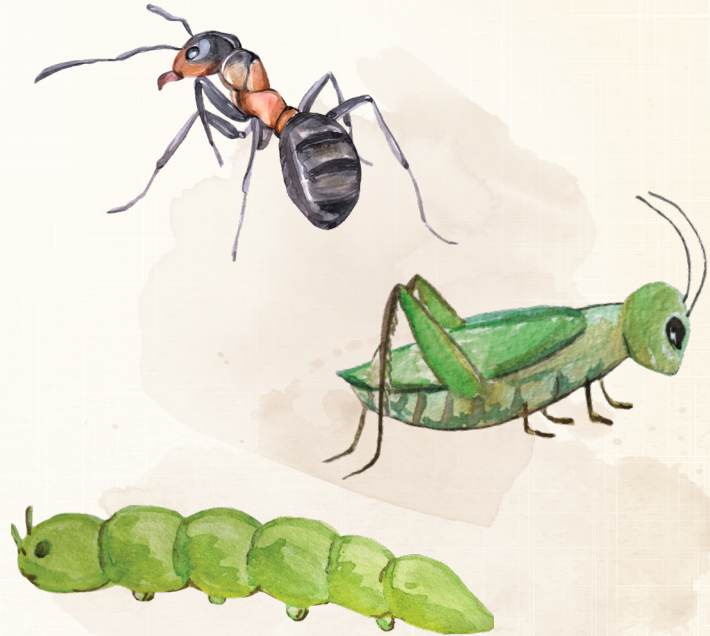
- * Cut a strip of green construction paper about one inch wide, long enough to wrap around your child's head. You may need to tape two pieces of paper together to make it long enough. Tape the ends together to form a circle.
- * Cut eight strips of green paper, each about a half-inch wide and the length of a piece of construction paper (9 inches).
- * Fold the strips of paper in a fan fold to make them "crinkle" (see image for example).
- * Tape the crinkled strips to the circle, three on either side. These are the cricket's legs.
- * Cut two circles of green paper, then two circles of white paper. The white circles should be half the size of the green. These are the cricket's eyes.

- * Glue the white circles onto the green.
- * Use the black crayon to color in eyeballs.
- * Glue or tape these eyes to the band that goes around the child's head.
- * Tape the remaining two crinkled strips behind the eyes. These are the antennae.



Additional Activities

- * Tell your child to act like an ant for 10 minutes. Your child must crawl everywhere he or she goes.
- * Tell your child to act like a cricket for 10 minutes. Your child must jump on all fours everywhere he or she goes.
- * Tell your child to act like an inchworm for 10 minutes. Your child must “inch” everywhere he or she goes.
- * Discuss what your child discovered about being this low to the ground.



Poetry Parties

• FOR LITTLES •

Insects and Spiders

Oh, how beautiful it is to see,
A spotted ladybug on my tree,
A yellow bee on a flower white,
A firefly shining in the night...

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ORIGINAL PUBLICATION



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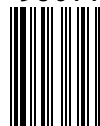
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