



Nature Smart



Toys	Finger puppet bugs in a jar and bug-matching game card.	Goals	Cognitive concepts and language skills
Objectives	Improve concepts such as "same", "on", "off", "up", "down", "in" and "out" Improve naming/identifying colors and developing new vocabulary Improve listening, imitating, and following directions Improve fine motor skills		
Play Strategies/Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One by one pull a bug out of the jar, place it on one of your fingers and demonstrate whether that bug hops, flies or crawls. Look at the game card and decide which one is the "same."• Encourage the child to wear the bugs on their fingers and imitate your play. Watch as they make connections with the bug's picture on the picture board. Ask the child to match the bug to the picture.• When looking for the bug's picture, point to the other pictures and say, "Does the ladybug go here?" You're looking for an answer of "yes" or "no". <p>If you notice a strength in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage this strength by going out in nature with the bug jar. Try to find bugs like the ones in the jar.• Hide the bug puppets in different places around your yard and have the child try to find them. Give them hints and directions.• Borrow library books about animals, insects and weather.• Take the child to a park or nature preserve and have a scavenger hunt. Hunt for bugs, leaves, rocks, flowers, etc.		