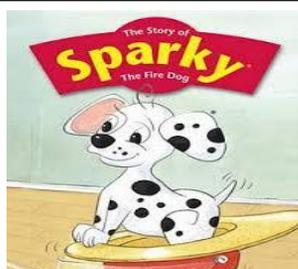




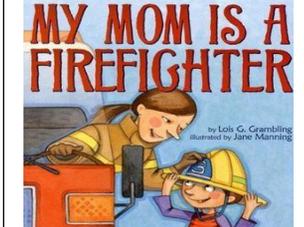
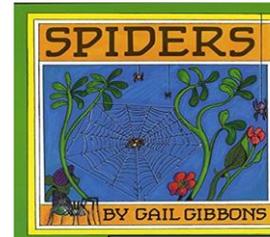
Spider Web Lacing – You will need: a cardboard box (1 very large box for all the children to work on or preferably one for each child), yarn, a hole punch (or screwdriver), a box cutter or sharp scissors and tape. This activity is so simple and so great for hand-eye coordination and developing fine motor skills. Ahead of time prepare the boxes by poking holes in the sides – do this before you cut the box. Once your box has enough holes take the box cutter or scissors to cut the frame for the spider web or any other shape that the kids would enjoy (triangle, square). Next, cut long pieces of yarn for the children to thread through the holes. To make this process a bit easier wrap the end of the yarn in tape so that it will insert easier. Once the children have created as many webs as they would like to provide them with spiders and other bugs that they can use to create a spider habitat to explore with. Courtesy of funathomewithkids.com



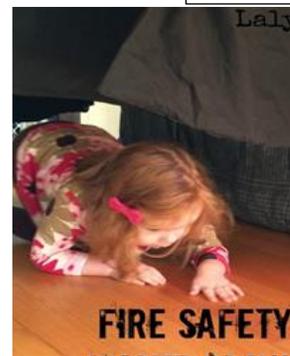
Handprint Spiders – You will need: Playdough (an oily playdough works best), wax paper, Plaster of Paris, acrylic paint, googly eyes and paint brushes. Begin by having the children flatten their playdough on top of the wax paper. If, possible try to have the children hold their thumb in the air and then really press their four fingers and palm down into the dough. You want the imprint to be very deep to make the best spider legs that will not easily break off. Once the impression has been made, flip the wax paper around, overlap the palms, and press four fingers in the opposite direction to create the spider body and legs. Mix the Plaster of Paris according to the instructions on the box but, with a little less water than it recommends this will help the plaster be a bit thicker and will set quickly. Pour the plaster mix into the playdough mold. Once the plaster has set, flip the mold over and carefully peel back the playdough. Next, invite the children to begin painting the spiders and adding the eyes. Courtesy of funathomewithkids.com



October is Fire Safety Month – Visit <http://sparky.org/games> to access free games, videos and activity sheets that teach children about fire safety. This excellent resource has many activities for all age ranges!



When practicing your **monthly fire drills**, it is important to try to replicate what a real fire in the house might look and feel like for the children. That may include crawling on your hands and knees through a smoke-filled room. Have the children practice crawling and explain how it is important for them to stay low as the smoke will rise to the ceiling. You and a helper could hold a large towel or sheet for each child to crawl under (or kitchen table if it is the right shape). Teach the children how to “Stop, Drop and Roll” if their clothing ever catches on fire.



Visit your local Library (they are open now!) and look for these awesome books about spiders and fire safety!

Aaaarrgghh! Spider!

By Ldyia Monks

The Very Busy Spider

By Eric Carle

Spiders, National Geographic Kids

By Laura Marsh

Diary of a Spider

By Doreen Cronin

Spiders

By Gail Gibbons

My Mom is a Firefighter

By Lois G. Grambling

We Work at the Fire Station

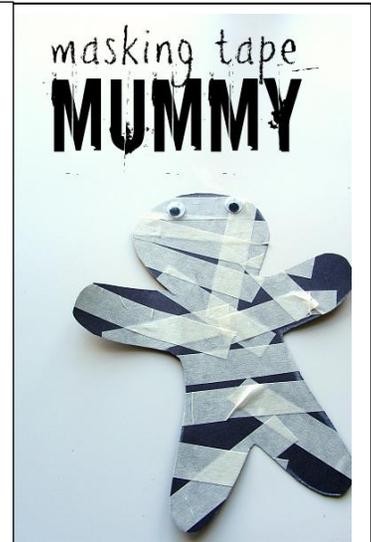
By Angela Aylmore

October 2020 – The activity calendar this month is filled with tons of spider fun! As you enjoy the beautiful autumn leaves outside with the children encourage them to look for spiders and spider webs. Spiders are great helpers in keeping away other pesky bugs, most of them are not aggressive and they are actually a symbol of good luck! Fire Prevention Week is Oct 4 to 10, use this week to reinforce fire safety skills with the children

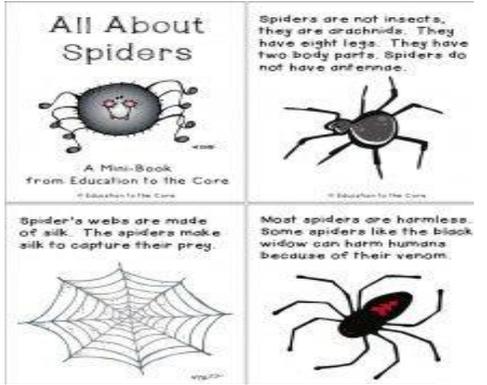


Create a Spider Habitat for the children to enjoy and explore. A great place to start is with a light table, plastic spiders, cobwebs (available at Dollarama – or create your own with yarn), small bugs, pieces of wood, rocks, and plants. Discuss with the children how the spiders spin their webs and how the stickiness of the web traps bugs for the spider to eat. Discuss what predators the spiders must look out for.

Masking Tape Mummy – *You will need;* masking tape, googily eyes, white crayons, black construction paper and scissors. Begin by helping the children draw the shape of the mummy on the black paper. Depending on the age of the child have them cut or rip strips of masking tape and place them on the body outline or pass the children pieces of tape to lay flat on the body. Once the children are satisfied with the amount of tape on their mummy they can follow the outline and cut out the mummy shape. Finish by gluing the googily eyes onto the head! Another option could be using white yarn if you do not have masking tape handy but, you would need to cut the body first then wrap it in yarn.



Spider Lifecycle – Visit this website for a free printable of a spider lifecycle <https://educationtothecore.com/2013/10/spiders-free-mini-book-and-writing/> This awesome spider info can be turned into a mini book for each child.



Spider Web Physical Literacy – Set up these simple and fun activities for the children to get them up and moving their bodies and challenging their brains. First is setting up a spider web balance beam made of tape in a web pattern on the floor. Encouraging the children to walk, jump, crawl or hop on the lines on the floor promotes balance skills. Once they are finding it easy to keep their feet on the lines, challenge them by having them go backwards, or hop on one foot from line to line. Another activity to get the children challenging their bodies is to set up a “spider web” obstacle course for them to move through. Using paper streamers strung up at all levels in a hallway or outside from tree to tree. Have the children pretend to be bugs that must fly through the webs without getting stuck. You may want to set up two different versions of the course if you have a wide range of ages in the children you care for, as the little guys may enjoy pulling the streamers down (still good hand eye coordination) whereas the older children may like the challenge of stretching and contorting their body to go through the web without touching any of the streamers.

Spider Facts – On average, it takes a spider about 60 minutes to spin a web - The average house has 30 spiders in it at anytime- You are always three feet away from a spider - The silk strands in a web are 5x stronger than a piece of steel the same size - Spiders have short hairs on their feet that allow them to walk upside down on ceilings and over glass - Spiders are found everywhere in the world except for the cold polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic -The average life of a spider is one to two years. Although the female tarantula may live up to 20 years! *Courtesy of preschoolinspirations.com*

