

At Home with Nature

Nature doesn't just happen in a park; it can happen right at home!



A resource for **PRESCHOOL** and **EARLY ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN**
so they may feel right **AT HOME WITH NATURE.**

WEBS AND THEIR WEAVERS!

Videos, activities, stories and songs
celebrating **SPIDERS.**

Let's Get Started

Enjoy this video and discover why spiders are
such fascinating creatures.

<https://youtu.be/WBE-5Jlmkmw>

Literacy Connection

Enjoy a retelling of an Osage Native American
legend highlighting the patience of a spider.

<https://youtu.be/pi6-3Nswdfk>

Music and Movement

Sing along and pretend to weave a web just
like a spider.

<https://youtu.be/lxq7QMqIRGY>



Math Connection

Younger children can sing and count as
insects are caught in a spider's web.

https://youtu.be/I_PRGcUBxAw

Older children can sort spiders and other
animals by their number of legs.

Directions are below.

Creative Expression

Create a spider and weave a spider web.

Directions are below.

Let's Explore Outdoors

Take the learning outdoors with memorable
family activities.

Details are below.



Math Connection



Lots of Legs!

Younger children:

Draw a spider with 8 legs!

Older children:

How many legs do people have?

How many legs do cats have?

How many legs do insects like ants have? They have 6.

How many legs do spiders have? They have 8.



Draw pictures of different animals. Arrange the animals in order from the smallest to largest number of legs.

How many more legs do spiders have than people?

How many more legs do spiders have than insects?

How many total legs would there be if there were 2 spiders?

How many total legs would there be if there were 2 spiders and an ant?

How many legs would there be if **YOU** were there with those 2 spiders and the ant?

Music and Movement



All animals are classified according to how they look and behave. Spiders belong to a large group of animals called arthropods. Spiders and insects are both types of arthropods, but spiders have 8 legs while insects have 6.

The Spider Song

Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

**I'm a little spider,
crawling on the ground.
I have 8 little legs
for moving all around.**

**I spin a sticky web
then I hide out of sight.
Along comes a fly;
I've got dinner tonight!**

**I'm a little spider,
crawling on the ground.
I have 8 little legs
for moving all around.**



Creative Expression



Create a Spider

Materials Needed:

Button with 4 Holes
4 Chenille Stems
Pom Poms
Wiggly Eyes
Glue

Directions:

- Pull 4 chenille stems through the holes of the button and bend them to form 8 legs.
- Glue 2 pom poms to the button.
- Glue lots of wiggly eyes to your spider.



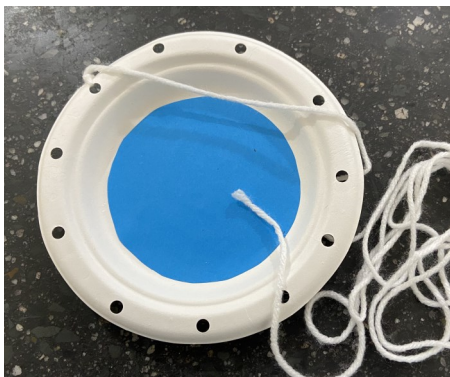
Weave a Web for your Spider

Materials Needed:

Paper Plate
Hole Punch
Yarn

Directions:

- Using the hole punch, punch holes along the plate's edges spacing the holes about 1 inch apart.
- Weave a strand of yarn through the holes to create a web.



Let's Explore Outdoors



Spider Search

It's fun to observe spiders. Look for them in gardens or near the outside walls of your home. Most spiders hunt insects, so look for spiders where insects might be found. When you find a spider, look at it closely. Take a photo of the spider if you can, then enlarge the photo so you may get a good look at the spider's eyes, legs and coloring.

If a spider is found inside your home, you can take it outdoors by gently placing a cup over the spider and then sliding an index card or piece of paper under the cup. You can then safely carry the spider outdoors, without harming it.



Eye Spy

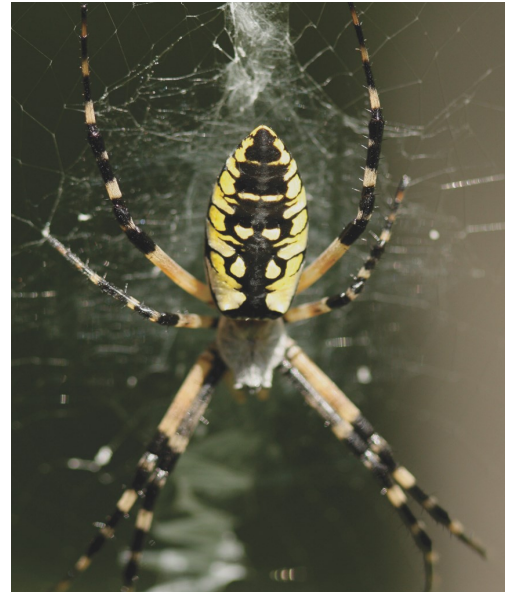
Head outdoors in the evening, once it is dark, with a flashlight. Holding the flashlight close to your eye level, shine the flashlight onto your grassy yard or into the corners of your home's outside walls. When the light of your flashlight hits a spider, the light will reflect off the spider's eyes and glow bright green.

Let's Explore Outdoors



Web Watchers

Look for spider webs in your garden or among bushes near your home. Look for webs on damp mornings. Tiny drops of water often stick to them, making them easier to see. You can fill an old sock with cornstarch and tie it closed. Then once webs are found, you can hold the sock above the webs and tap it so that the cornstarch will gently cover the webs allowing you to see them more clearly. Choose one of the webs and then watch that web each day for several days. Notice changes to the web. Notice and count insects that have been caught in the web. Look for the web-making spider nearby. Invite your child(ren) to draw the web and its weaver on paper. Invite your child(ren) to create a story about this spider and its web-making life.



While not all spiders weave webs, those that do are amazing architects. Some spiders design orb webs that look like large wheels, while others design sheet and funnel shaped webs. Many common house spiders create messy cobwebs. But no matter their design, spiders build webs in order to catch insects.

If I Were a Spider

Ask your child(ren) to finish each of these statements:

If I were as small as a spider...

If I had eight legs....

If I were waiting on my web, I would think about...