



Rockledge Gardens

Little Bugs Learning Station # 1: Wings of Wonder

A tasty snack for your butterfly friends!

Background Information:

Butterflies LOVE all things sweet and this goes for fruit just as much as nectar. You can attract butterflies to your home by placing a bowl of *slightly* rotten fruit outside for them to feed on.

Tip: To avoid ants, place your bowl of fruit in a dish of water. Ants are not strong swimmers, and will struggle getting inside the bowl!

Favorite Fruits of Butterflies:

Bananas

Orange Slices

Cut Grapes

Melon of all kinds

Mango

Strawberries

1. Choose fruits that are soft and mushy.
2. Slice bananas in half (can leave peel on) and poke holes in it to release juice
3. Place your bowl of fruit near a flower garden
4. OR hang a shallow dish of fruit like a hanging basket from a Shepard's hook
5. Watch for happy butterflies.
6. Observe and Enjoy!



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Little Bugs Learning Station # 3: BATS!

Did you know bats naturally control bugs?



Background Information:

Bats LOVE to eat all kinds of flying insects including moths and mosquitoes! In fact, they can consume over 1000 in a single night! By building a bat house like the one here at Rockledge Gardens, bats are given a safe place to live and raise families while helping us by eating pests!

To find their prey, they use a special skill called, ECHOLOLOCATION. Think of how submarines know how to launch missiles based on electric impulses in the ocean. Bats use similar technology to locate bugs in complete darkness.

Do you want to experience what it is like to be a bat?

1. Close your eyes and have a sibling, friend, or parent call out, “MOSQUITO” or “MOTH” to you.
2. Walk toward their voices.

Were you successful in finding your dinner?




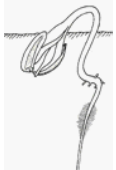


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Little Bugs Learning Station # 4 Grow What You Eat

Plant your own sunflower! By growing sunflowers, you are helping to feed wildlife, providing tasty seeds, oil, and food for pollinators and making many happy with their cheerful bright colors

Follow the steps to plant a sunflower. Track your success with the chart on the back. How long does it take for your sunflower to grow?

Sunflower Growth Chart:

STAGE	DATE	OBSERVATION
 SEED		
 SHOOT		
 SEEDLING		
 FLOWER		

Materials:

- Cup to plant in
- 2 handfuls of soil
- 1 sunflower seed
- A sprinkle of water

Procedure:

1. Fill cup with soil
2. Make a hole for the seed with your finger
3. Place seed in hole
4. Cover seed with soil
5. Sprinkle with water!
6. Observe and Enjoy!



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Little Bugs Learning Station # 5: Florida Farming Make Your Own Potpourri!

Make your room smell fresh with dried flowers and herbs from your garden!

Background Information:

Potpourri has been used for centuries to add a fresh scent to closets, dressers, and even cars. Most of the ingredients come straight from the garden and are easy to make at home. You can purchase sachets online, at a craft store, or make your own from cheesecloth and ribbon.

1. Choose your favorite smelling herbs and flowers.
2. Cut and hang upside down from the ceiling by a string.
3. Place dry herbs and flowers into a large jar. You can also add pieces of store-bought vanilla bean to the mixture.
4. SHAKE!
5. Add 5-10 drops of your favorite essential oil to the mix.
6. SHAKE!
7. Let it sit in the jar for at least 2 hours, then put into sachets.



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Little Bugs Learning Station # 7: Tropical Trip!

A greenhouse scavenger hunt!

Can you find all these plants? Put a check mark next to the ones you see!



Bromeliad



Orchid



Peace Lily



ZZ Plant



Spider Plant



Snake Plant



Rubber Plant



Carnivorous Plant



Allocasia



Pothos