



Insects all around us

Aloha families, what an exciting month it was for our keiki as they started our new study on INSECTS! Is anyone else thinking, “What an interesting topic to teach my young keiki?” We’re only at the beginning of our study. Yet, our young keiki have had so much fun going outside (sometimes even finding insects indoors), exploring during “insect hunts,” getting creative with insect art, and learning new and interesting facts about insects.

As we move along in our study, enhance your keiki’s learning experience by exploring in and around your home or community to see if you can find different types of insects. Use literacy and language to enhance their learning, and talk about how to handle insects carefully or if there are certain ones we have to be careful around. We’re excited to see the extent of their inquisitiveness about insects in the coming month.



Insects Everywhere

Did you know that insects have three body parts? They have a thorax, an abdomen, and a head. Their legs are attached to their thorax, and sometimes wings are attached as well. Insect anatomy is one of the things our children learned.

The children used various tools, like magnifying glasses and microscopes, to examine the distinctive characteristics of insects. They captured insects and added them to our insect collection, and examined insects’ habitats. They discovered that insects protect themselves by flying away, making loud sounds, releasing odors, or a combination of these. During our field trip to Aloun Farms, the children looked for insects, and shared what they found with the class.

Bring out your magnifying glass the next time you go out with your ‘ohana because insects are everywhere!

By Nessa Banas



By Nida Otto



Kumu Kukui



Welina mai kākou!

Many of us can recall silly nursery rhymes and lullabies from our childhood, but may not have realized these songs and rhymes were teaching us the basics of math and literacy. Children are easily able to memorize things that are set to music, which is why music is a large part of our daily routine in preschool.

In old Hawai'i, children were taught to memorize the phases of the moon. This was taught to the children as a means of preparing them for real life, as Hawaiians organized their lives around the movements of the environment. The Hawaiian language was kept alive through the revival of hula and mele. Hawaiian was an oral language so family members were taught mele (songs) and hula (dance) without ever writing it down. One of the most important factors in creating mele or performing hula is the concept of lōkahi, or unity. The musicians who play the music for the dancer are just as important as the one who is dancing. The same idea can be applied to real life situations where we depend a lot on the performance of another. A band that plays with lōkahi produces beautifully blended music; a band without it creates an unorganized jumble of sounds.

By Pua Aquino

Cultivating a grateful heart

As the season of giving thanks approaches, it is important to cultivate a grateful heart by following these three steps: give thanks out loud, write down what you're grateful for, and serve others.

It can be as simple as thanking someone for holding the door open for you or by you holding the door for others. These simple steps can change our mindset from negative to positive and is something we can teach our children from a young age. Having your children thank a stranger for their help, or even thanking you for the food you make for them, can help shape a positive mindset and a grateful heart. It is not something that may come easily at first, but with lots of practice, it can be achieved.



By Tara Linhares

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