

COUNTING THINGS THAT FLY!

DISCOVERY PLAY ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested play activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



STEM Concept(s): Living Things, Counting, Classification & Data Analysis, Observe

Help your child learn to **count, classify, and take data** by keeping a running record of things (e.g., birds, bugs, planes) they **observe** flying in the sky while they are outside playing.

STEM IDEAS/WORDS

- Sky
- Birds
- Bugs
- Counting & Numbers
- Classify

MATERIALS

- Paper & pencil for data collection
- Counters (e.g., sticks, pebbles)
- Arts & crafts items

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

- *What things do you see flying in the sky?*
- *How are birds like planes? How are they different?*
- *How are birds like bugs? How are they different?*
- *How many of each thing do you see in the sky?*



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ADAPTATIONS

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ENVIRONMENT

- If possible, limit background noise & distractions
- Wear sunglasses/hat if sensitive to bright light
- Set up area with a clear view of the sky
- Put data collection materials within reach

MATERIALS

- Have child's assistive technology ready and available, including augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) device and/or power wheelchair
- Use a large pencil that is easier to grasp or has a writing gripper
- Consider using counters (e.g., sticks, pebbles) instead of paper and pencil
- For children with physical disabilities with fine motor/grasping needs, consider using tools/assistive devices (e.g., tablet to take data)

INSTRUCTION

- Use a variety of methods of communication (e.g., sign language, gestures) to meaningfully engage children
- Model counting aloud and taking data and help the child imitate
- Provide prompts and visual cues (see following pages) to help the child observe and classify



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



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VISUAL CUES USE TO SIGNAL NEXT STEPS

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine



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VISUAL CUES USE TO SIGNAL NEXT STEPS

Ten

Plane

Bird

Bee

Fly

Butterfly

Moth

How many?

Count



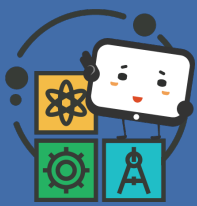
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

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- Collect objects outside (leaves, grass, rocks, etc.) and have the child predict whether they will fly or not. Test it out, and record the outcome!
- Encourage your child to document their observations through creative arts and crafts (e.g., take/draw pictures)
- Check out our Discovery Play Activity for Paper Airplanes
- Check out these great books about birds:
 - *Bird Count* by Susan Edwards Richmond
 - *Hello, World! Birds* by Jill McDonald
 - *Birding for Babies: Backyard Birds: A Numbers Book* by Chloe Goodhart
- Check out these great books about bugs:
 - *The Backyard Bug Book for Kids* by Lauren Davidson
 - *Bugs* by Britta Teckentrup
 - *Little Wonders Bugs* by Rose Nestling
- Check out these great books about planes:
 - *The Big Book of Airplanes* by DK
 - *Amazing Airplanes* by Tony Mitton & Ant Parker
 - *Airplanes: Soaring! Diving! Turning!* By Patricia Hubbell

