



Discovery Time: Spiders



Introduction

There are more than 37,000 different species of spiders on Earth and about 3,000 species live in North America. Most spiders are not dangerous to people and are beneficial to us. They keep garden pests under control. These activities will strengthen your child's fine and gross motor skills while encouraging wonder and appreciation of the natural world around them.

Early Literacy Connection

- **Writing:** Lacing activities strengthen your child's pincer grasp-something they will need when they begin to write with a pencil
- **Playing:** Natural sciences encourage a young child's connection with nature. Children who have opportunities to explore nature are more likely to:
 - Handle challenges and problems more capably
 - Act responsibly towards the earth and each other
 - Be more physically active
 - Have a greater appreciation of the arts, music, history, and literature
 - Choose science or a related field for careers
 - Become better-informed and environmentally-aware adults
 - Foster a respect for all living things



Supplies

Lacing Web

- Paper plate
- Yarn
- Hole punch

Gross Motor Web

- Masking or painters tape
- Floor space



Revised 5/8/2020

Instructions

Lacing Web

1. Punch holes around the edge of the paper plate
2. Cut a length of yarn. Tie one end into a knot through one of the holes in the plate
3. Lace the yarn through each hole in a web pattern

Gross Motor Web

1. Use tape to create a web design on the floor. Alternatively, you can draw your web on concrete outside.
2. Pretend to be a spider! Balance on the threads as you walk around your web.
3. Now pretend to be an insect! Avoid stepping on the web as you cross it and escape the hungry spider!

Review

Explore additional learning concepts on our [website](#) and blog [Plano Library Learns/Early Learning](#), including information about library [databases](#) for each aspect of STEAM

- Gross motor skills require whole body movement and involve the large muscles of the body to do things like walking and jumping. Working on gross motor skills helps your child to gain strength and confidence. Developing gross motor skills builds a foundation for doing more complex skills in the future.
- Fine motor skills use the small muscles that control the hand, fingers, and thumb. Actions like feeding yourself, picking up toys, buttoning or zipping clothes, and writing. Developing fine motor skills helps your child complete every day self-care tasks-being able to do things like a 'big kid' will boost your child's confidence and self-esteem. It also gets them ready to hold a pencil and write!
- Encouraging wonder and interest in the natural world around your child promotes empathy for other living creatures. This helps children to care for the natural world as they get older and become invested in protecting it for future generations.

Books to Explore

Through the [Libby app](#) and your library card, you can read eBooks about painting and art with your little one



Wild Insects and Spiders!
by Chris and Martin Kratt

[Checkout](#)



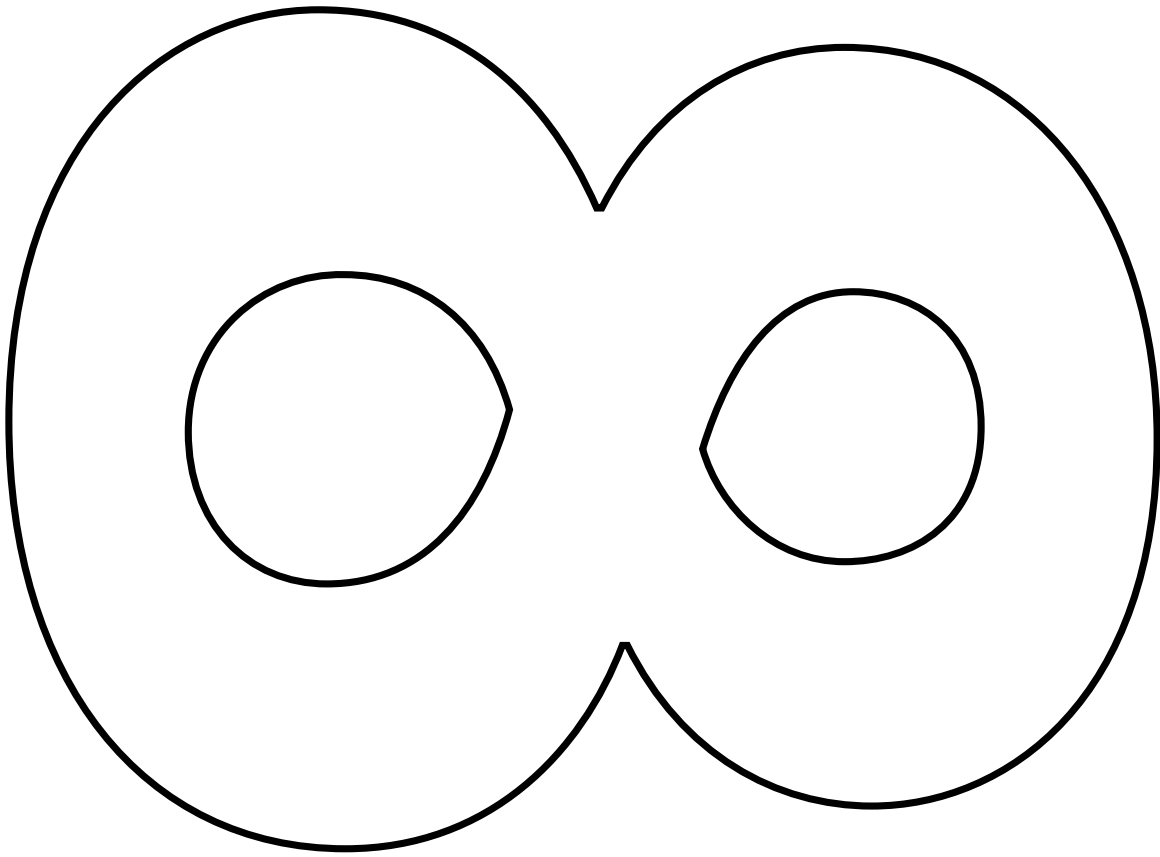
Spider's Lunch: All About Garden Spiders
by Joanna Cole

[Checkout](#)



Urgency Emergency! Itsy Bitsy Spider
by Dosh Archer

[Checkout](#)



Use the number 8 to create your own spider! Spiders bodies are segmented into two parts: their head and their abdomen. Use 8 pieces of yarn to create your spider's eight legs.

Music & Movement

Little Spider Weaves a Web

(To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Little Spider weaves a web
With some dry and sticky threads.
Her bristled feet keep her free
From getting stuck, can't you see?
Here comes a fly buzzing by
Enter her web, watch it fly.
Wiggle, wiggle. It's stuck tight.
Spider has her meal tonight.

Spider Bodies

(To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Spider bodies have two parts, have two parts, have two parts
Spider bodies have two parts - a head and abdomen.
Spiders have four pairs of legs, pairs of legs, pairs of legs.
Spiders have four pairs of legs -
And spinnerets for silk.