

# ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

April 15, 2020

Dear Zoo-Friends,

We are still **celebrating Spring** through the theme, “**Backyards, Bugs and Botany!**” enjoy these **S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** activities! Today, we are going to discover **ALL ABOUT SPIDERS!!!**



**PLEASE NOTE:** Just a reminder, Zoo-phonics does **S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** activities: **science**, **technology** (looking up science topics online, viewing pictures, learning new information), **recreation** (movement and fitness – free and structured physical activities), **engineering** (little hands building with blocks, Legos®, scissors, stirring, transferring, lacing – anything that uses the hands and fingers), **the arts** (art/music), **math**, and **socialization** (learning about family, self, community, world).

*Let's see how many things you can discover in your yard, in books, and online this week. See lessons for “Older Children” below.*

## Two Critical Every Day Things to Do:

- 1) Signal and sound the “**a – z’s**” every day. Use your *Zoo-phonics Animal Alphabet Cards* and Safari Sid’s YouTube video for fun practice.
- 2) Read a wonderful **literature book** aloud every day (fiction or non-fiction). Have your child pretend s/he is star of the book. Signal and sound the first letters in important words in the book as you read (have children Signal too!). Clap out the syllables in these important words.
- 3) Read aloud the old Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme, “**Little Miss Muffet.**” Can children hear the rhymes? Act this out! Be as silly as possible!

**GREAT LITERATURE BOOK SUGGESTIONS:** “I’m Trying to Love Spiders,” “The Very Busy Spider,” “The Backyard Bug Book for Kids.”

**S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** (Don’t forget to Signal letters that are underlined as you talk with your child!)

### 1) **Math:**

- a) How many legs does a spider have? (8). That’s one of the differences between bugs and spiders! Walk around the house or backyard and find 8 of things: 8 spoons, 8 acorns, 8 rocks, 8 leaves, 8 books, 8 buttons, 8 spice bottles, etc. Count them out each time. (It is the wandering around together and discovery that so much fun!).
- b) Use these items to make simple math problems: 1 spoon + 7 spoons = 8 spoons! Review “+,” “-“ and “=.”
- c) Honey Horse is the 8<sup>th</sup> letter in the alphabet. Say this Zoo-phonics Math Rhyme: “Honey Horse is at the gate. Count her steps, there are 8!” Now Signal out 8 Honey Horse Signals and sounds!

- 2) **Art:** You need our **Spider Web** (see below), glue, and glitter (or glittery-glue) for this activity. On the spider web, have children squeeze or paint the glue on each line. (Since that will take a while, sprinkle glitter after each section is painted.) Once dry, you’ll have a pretty spider web picture!

- 3) **Engineering:** For preschoolers, today’s version of “little hands building” will be a **cookie-making lesson**. First, with your child measuring (listening to directions, math) and stirring (music movement and control) make a basic sugar cookie recipe. Cut out round circles with a cookie cutter. Once the cookies are baked, with thin-tipped frosting, have them paint a spider web on each cookie!



### Activities for Older Preschoolers and Kindergartners

**Read a chapter book.** How about **The Secret Garden**? (It is presently **FREE** in Kindle Books.) Write down CVC (short consonant-vowel-consonant) words and blend words. **Think, analyze, evaluate, predict, verbalize thoughts** Remember to use **adverbs** and **adjectives** to make sentences more exciting.

- 1) **Word-Play:** Look at the following words. See how they are structured. Pronounce them slowly and carefully: **at, cat, fat, mat, pat, rat, sat, vat; flat, plant, rant, slant.** Signal and sound each. Syllabicate the words by clapping. (Remember, the blends are Signaled/sounded quickly!)
- 2) **Math with Spider Legs!**
  - a) **Skip count by 8’s!** 8, 16, 24, 36!
  - b) **Add with 8’s:**  $0 + 8 = ( )$   $1 + 8 = ( )$   $2 + 8 = ( )$   $3 + 8 = ( )$   $4 + 8 = ( )$   $5 + 8 = ( )$
- 3) **Physical Fitness:** Run in place for 8 minutes. However, you can do it one minute at a time. Just do 8 of them. That will get your heart pumping!

# Nursery Rhymes



## Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey;  
Along came a spider,  
And sat down beside her,  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

---

## Questions

### Little Miss Muffet

Nursery Rhyme 1

1. What is a "tuffet?"
2. What are curds and whey?
3. Tell how you would feel if a big spider sat down next to you. What would you do?

Activity:

Have the children separate into pairs, one being Miss Muffet and one, the spider. Act out the rhyme.

---

### Answers

1. A low seat. Perhaps made of grass.
2. Curds: the thick part of milk that separates from the whey, used to make cheese. Whey: the watery part of milk that separates from the curds. Have the children guess what they think before telling them.
3. Answers will vary.

## Little Miss Muffet

**Directions:** Here are some cute pictures with which to tell a story. Attach them to popsicle sticks and you have puppets! Don't forget: You can trace these pictures onto Pellon™ with a thin Sharpie™ pen and make either puppets or movable flannel graph pictures. Have children recite or retell the nursery rhyme using these props.



