

“Backyard Creatures”

What’s new in our class this week

Through songs, rhymes, and fun activities, we are learning about

“Backyard Creatures”!

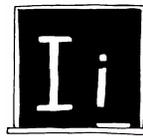
This week we are learning words that describe different creatures we might see in the backyard, like bugs or rabbits. We will also learn words that describe color, size and how creatures move (crawl, fly).

New Song



“The Itsy Bitsy Spider”

New Letter



Big “I” and little “i”

Some “I” words we will talk about are Inch worm, Igloo, Ice and Ice cream!

Letter Talk

“Letter Talk” is what we use to help children learn how to form letters!

Letter Talk for big ‘I’

Straight line down. Go to the top. Straight line across. Go to the bottom. Straight line across.

Letter Talk for little ‘i’

Straight line down. Dot above the line.

Use your finger to draw letters in the air or in the palm of your hand!

Reviewing the Concept

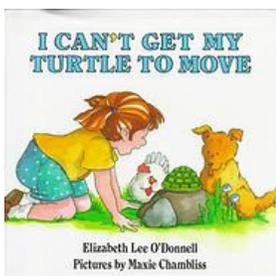


Rhyming Words



Recognizing and making rhyming words is a great visual and listening skill as your child begins to read. Explain to your child that rhyming words will have the same sound at the end but a different sound at the beginning, like “hug” and “bug”.

Revisiting the Book: “I Can’t Get My Turtle to Move”



Before re-reading this book, we will try to remember the characters and events in the story. As we have learned, being able to recall details is an important skill as your child learns to read.

After reading, we will also recall details of the story and the order that events take place in the book. **You can help your child recall details by letting him or her tell you about a book that you have read together.**

In this issue

What’s New	1
Letter Talk	1
Tips for Home	2
Discover Danville	2
Book Pick	2
Book List	2



Local Plants and Animals

A backyard or any outdoor area can be fun to explore with your child. When you are outside with your child, try to find animals and insects together.

- Ask your child to name the animals or insects they see and hear.
- Ask your child questions such as “Where do you think the animals live?”, “How do insects build their homes?”, “Where do they get their food from?”

A local petting zoo is a great place to see animals up close.

If you have a state park in the area, you will be able to find animals, insects and plants that can be discovered!



Books related to theme

- “Are You a Ladybug?” by Judy Allen and Tudor Humpries
- “Clara Caterpillar” by Pamela Duncan
- “Five Little Kittens” by Nancy Jewell
- “Four Fur Feet” by Margaret Wise Brown
- “Owl Babies” by Martin Waddell
- “Seven Little Rabbits” by John Becker

Try These Tips at Home

Teach your child about: Rhyming Words

- **Make up silly animal rhymes and have your child tell you which words rhyme.** You might say “The snake likes cake”, and ask if any words rhyme. (snake, cake)
- **Let your child predict the words that rhyme.** When reading a rhyming book with your child, pause before a rhyming word and see if your child can guess the word. For example, you may say “The cat in the ___”, and your child can guess “hat”.
- **Play a rhyming game with your child.** Say a word and have your child name as many rhyming words as possible. Then, your child can say a word and you name all the rhyming words. For instance, you might say “bee” and your child would say “me, see, free”.

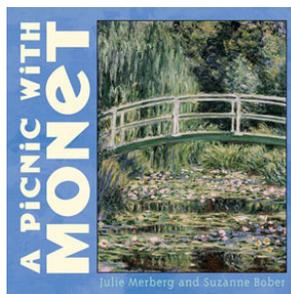
Help your child learn the letters: l and i

- **When at the grocery store, go on a “letter hunt” to find words that have the letter “l”.**
- **Search for all words that begin with the letter “i” when reading or driving in the car with your child.**

Teach your child about: Backyard Creatures

- **Ask your child what creatures can be found outside your home.** Go on a search for different creatures that live in the backyard, front lawn, or nearby park. When you get back home, let your child draw and write about what you found.
- **Sing “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” and substitute different creatures for the spider.** An example might be “The silly, silly squirrel scurried up the water spout. Down came the rain and washed the squirrel right out...”

Book Pick: “A Picnic with Monet” Written by Julie Merberg and Suzanne Bober



This imaginative book not only features beautiful paintings by the famous painter Claude Monet, but also contains a playful rhyming text. The paintings take you and your child on an enchanted picnic in the countryside, where you can look for “backyard” creatures.

This book is a fun way to introduce your child to the world of art, while going on an imaginative adventure. It is a book you won’t mind reading again and again.