

parent's CORNER



Environmental Champions: Pollinators and Our Kids' Future

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and moths transfer pollen between flowers, helping plants reproduce and increasing biodiversity, which supports stronger, more resilient ecosystems, prevents soil erosion, filters water pollutants, and captures carbon to help fight climate change. The result is cleaner air, more stable natural spaces, and safer outdoor environments for kids to play and explore.

Planting low-maintenance native flowers like coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, or milkweed in your yard or in pots is a simple, affordable, family-friendly way to help. These plants naturally attract pollinators, turning your space into a small habitat where kids can observe bees and butterflies while learning to care for the planet.

A Gentle Safety Reminder for Parents:

Bees and some other pollinators may sting if threatened. Teach children to watch them from a safe distance and avoid swatting or sudden movements. Quiet observation keeps everyone safe and encourages respect for nature.

If a sting occurs, stay calm. Gently scrape out the stinger with the edge of a credit card (don't squeeze it), wash the area with soap and water, apply a cold pack for 10–15 minutes to reduce swelling, and soothe with baking soda paste or aloe vera gel. Watch for signs of a serious allergic reaction such as trouble breathing or widespread hives, and seek medical help immediately if they appear.

Supporting pollinators helps build a greener, healthier world for our children. Start small this season by adding a few pollinator-friendly plants and enjoy watching the positive difference unfold right in your own backyard! This experience will help you Live Better Financially!

STEM ACTIVITY

Materials:

- Container
- Rocks or other dimensional objects
- Water
- Cuttings or fallen flowers/leaves

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start with a simple conversation about bug biology. Help kids see how insects and people share basic needs like food, water, and safety, with a focus on beneficial insects such as pollinators.
2. Collect fresh or fallen flowers and leaves. Point out that some should always be left behind for animals that eat them or use them as habitat.
3. Give each group a container and rocks, or similar dimensional objects like shells or bottle caps. Working in groups helps build teamwork.
4. Cover almost the entire bottom of the container with rocks, leaving small gaps between them.
5. Explain that the goal is to create dry "islands" surrounded by water so bugs always have a safe place to land and drink. Add water until it reaches about halfway up the rocks, covering the bottom of the container while keeping the tops dry.
6. Add sprigs of flowers and leaves to attract beneficial insects and make the station visually appealing.
7. Place the water station in the shade near flowering plants. Check it daily and add fresh water as needed.

tinyurl.com/centricstemactivity



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THE AWESOME, KID-FRIENDLY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



VOL. 7, ISSUE 2

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**SPROUT SUPER
SAVER CARD**



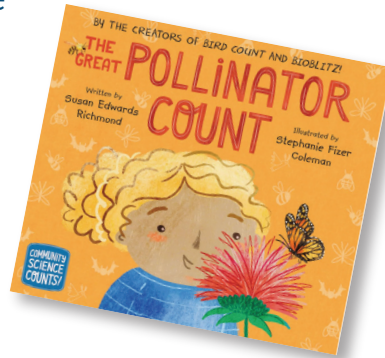
**CUT OUT YOUR
SPROUT SUPER SAVER
CARD, AND START SAVING!**

sprout's READING LIST

THE GREAT POLLINATOR COUNT

by Susan Edwards Richmond

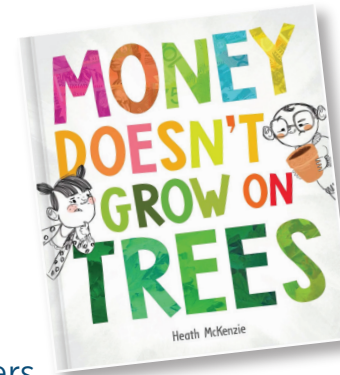
The Great Pollinator Count tells the story of Mellie and her classmates as they search the school garden for buzzing, fluttering pollinators during their annual count. As the count unfolds, the children discover the value of community science, courage, and operation, inviting young readers to count along and see their world from a bug's-eye view.



MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

by Heath McKenzie

In this clever, comical picture book, Heath McKenzie helps kids understand a timeless truth: money has limits, and smart choices matter. With vibrant illustrations and laugh-out-loud moments, Money Doesn't Grow on Trees introduces young readers to earning, saving, and spending, making financial basics fun and easy to grasp.



CIRCLE the Pollenators!



Key: Bee, Hummingbird, and Butterfly

CHECK OUT AREA EVENTS

Children's Coalition Dragon Boat Festival

Bayou Desiard at Warhawk Way
ULM/VCOM Campus
April 18th
<https://www.childrenscoalition.org/dragon-boat-festival.html>

Ouachita RiverFest

Downtown West Monroe
Trenton St
April 24th & 25th
<https://ouachitariverfest.com/>



318 Youth Triathlon

The Wellness Center
215 Cypress St. West Monroe, 71291
April 25th | 8:30 to 10:30 AM
<https://runsignup.com/Race/LA/WestMonroe/318TriathlonKids>

Red, White, & Blue Airshow

Monroe Regional Airport North Ramp
5100 Operations Blvd, Monroe 71203
May 1st - 3rd
<https://www.redwhiteandblueairshow.com/>



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