

Dear Family,

In my class today, we used tools to learn how insects' mouths are different shapes to help them get their food.

Did You Know?

- Insects' mouths help them eat their favorite foods. Ants and caterpillars have strong jaws. Their jaws help them to grip their food like tweezers. Their jaws help them chew their food too. Mosquitos have a needle-like mouth part. It can go through tough outer coverings. Then, the mosquito can suck the liquid. Butterflies and bees have a proboscis. It is a long tube. The tube works like a straw for sucking up nectar. House flies draw liquids from food into their mouths like a sponge.

Ask Your Child:

- What kinds of tools did you use?
- How were the tools like insects' mouths?
- Explain how the way you eat is different from the way an insect eats.

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- Watch the insects in your backyard or in the park. Count the number of different insects you see. Compare their colors and patterns on their bodies. Watch where they go and what they are eating. Do all the insects eat the same things?

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **insect** – a small animal with three body parts, two antennae, six legs, and a hard covering over its body.
- **mouth** – the part of the body through which an animal eats, breathes, and makes sounds.
- **tool** – an instrument used for doing work.
- **tweezers** – a small metal tool that has two arms used for picking up small objects.
- **proboscis** – an elongated tubular sucking structure on certain insects.
- **chunky** – full of lumps.