

## Introduction: What buzzing? Meet the Bees! (Day 1)

**Focus:** Introducing bees, basic body parts, and dispelling fear.

- **Read Aloud:** Read a simple, friendly book about bees (e.g., "The Very Greedy Bee" by Steve Smallman or a National Geographic Kids reader). Discuss what Mel already knows or thinks about bees.
- **Bee Anatomy Craft:** Use yellow and black construction paper, googly eyes, and pipe cleaners to create a simple bee model. As you assemble it, name the parts: head (with eyes and antennae), thorax (where wings and legs attach), and abdomen (with the stinger).
- **Song/Movement:** Learn and sing a bee song like "Baby Bumblebee" or make up movements for buzzing around the room like a bee.

## Life Cycle of a Bee (Day 2)

**Focus:** Understanding the four stages of a bee's life.

- **Life Cycle Introduction:** Use simple picture cards or draw the four stages: egg, larva (like a little worm), pupa (changing stage), and adult bee. Explain each stage briefly.
- **Playdough Fun:** Use playdough to create models of each stage of the bee life cycle.
- **Story Time:** Read another bee-themed story, perhaps focusing on a bee growing up or working in the hive.

## The Busy Hive & Sweet Honey (Day 3)

**Focus:** Learning about the beehive and honey production.

- **Honeycomb Shapes:** Look at pictures of honeycombs. Talk about the hexagon shape. Practice drawing hexagons or use hexagon blocks/tiles if available. Count the sides (6).
- **Honey Taste Test (Optional & Allergy Check):** If safe and appropriate, have a tiny taste of honey. Discuss its sweetness and where it comes from (bees collecting nectar). \*Ensure no allergies.\*
- **Build a "Hive":** Use blocks, cushions, or a cardboard box to build a pretend beehive Mel can crawl into. Pretend to be worker bees!

## Super Pollinators! (Day 4)

**Focus:** Understanding pollination.

- **Pollination Simulation:** Use cheese puffs or chalk dust! Have Mel pretend to be a bee landing on one flower (a drawing or paper plate) and getting "pollen" (cheese puff dust/chalk) on their hands/fingers, then flying to another flower and transferring the pollen. Explain this helps flowers make seeds and fruits.
- **Flower Observation:** If possible, safely observe flowers outdoors. Look for bees (from a distance!) or other pollinators like butterflies. Discuss what they might be doing.
- **Drawing:** Draw pictures of bees visiting flowers.

## Why We Need Bees & Review (Day 5)

**Focus:** Reinforcing the importance of bees and reviewing the week's learning.

- **Importance Discussion:** Talk about how bees help flowers grow and how that helps us get fruits and vegetables like apples, strawberries, and cucumbers. Why are bees important helpers?

- **Bee Craft Finale:** Create a bee-themed craft like fingerprint bees on a flower picture or paper plate bees.
- **Review Game:** Ask simple questions from the week: What parts does a bee have? What shape is a honeycomb cell? What important job do bees do for flowers? What sweet treat do bees make?
- **Bee Dance:** Learn about the "waggle dance" (a simple version!) - make up a little wiggle dance bees do to tell others where flowers are.