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# C's Big Bug Adventure!

## Materials Needed:

- Play-Doh (various colors, especially green, brown, and black)
- Pipe cleaners (cut into 2-3 inch pieces)
- Googly eyes
- A tray or piece of cardboard for a workspace
- Washable paint (yellow and black)
- White paper
- A clothespin and a cotton ball or pom-pom
- Optional: A picture book about bugs (like "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" or "Bugs A to Z")
- Optional: A magnifying glass

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## Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, C will be encouraged to:

- **Develop Fine Motor Skills:** By rolling, squishing, and pinching the Play-Doh and picking up small items like googly eyes and pipe cleaners.
- **Practice Creativity and Imagination:** By designing and building unique bug creations.
- **Engage in Sensory Exploration:** By feeling the texture of Play-Doh and paint.
- **Expand Vocabulary:** By hearing and repeating words like "bug," "legs," "eyes," "buzzy bee," and color names.

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## Lesson Activities:

### Part 1: The Bug Hunt Warm-Up (5 minutes)

1. **Engage with a Book:** Start by reading a colorful picture book about bugs. Point to the different bugs and make their sounds. Ask C, "Can you see the wiggly worm? Where is the butterfly?"
2. **Sing a Song:** Sing a simple bug-themed song together. A great one is "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," complete with hand motions. This gets C moving and excited for the topic.

**Teacher Tip:** Keep this part short and sweet to capture C's attention. The goal is to introduce the idea of "B is for Bugs" in a fun, familiar way.

### Part 2: Create-a-Bug Station (10-15 minutes)

1. **Set Up the Station:** On the tray, lay out the Play-Doh, googly eyes, and pipe cleaner "legs."
2. **Demonstrate and Invite:** Take a piece of Play-Doh and roll it into a ball or a long log shape. Say something like, "Look, C! I'm making a bug body. It's green! Now, let's give it some legs." Poke a few pipe cleaners into the side. Add googly eyes.
3. **Let C Create:** Hand C a piece of Play-Doh and encourage them to squish, roll, and explore. Guide them gently: "What color bug will you make? Does your bug need eyes to see? Let's count the legs! One... two..."
4. **Focus on the Process, Not the Product:** Celebrate whatever C creates! Whether it looks

like a real bug or a colorful blob, the goal is the hands-on process of building and creating. If they are more interested in just squishing the dough, that's a wonderful sensory experience too.

**Teacher Tip:** Narrate what C is doing to build vocabulary. "Wow, you are pinching the red Play-Doh! You gave your bug so many legs."

### Part 3: Buzzy Bee Painting (5-10 minutes)

1. **Prepare the Paint:** Put a small puddle of yellow paint and a small puddle of black paint on a paper plate or a piece of cardboard.
2. **Make the "Bee Brush":** Clip the cotton ball or pom-pom with the clothespin. This makes a fun, easy-to-hold paintbrush that is great for little hands.
3. **Paint Buzzy Bees:** Show C how to dip the pom-pom into the yellow paint and dab it onto the white paper to make a bee's body. Then, use a finger or the pom-pom to add black stripes. Make "Bzzzzzz" sounds as you paint together.
4. **Fly the Bees:** Once the paintings are done (or while they dry), have C fly their hands around the room like buzzy bees, making buzzing sounds. This adds a fun movement element to the lesson.

**Teacher Tip:** This activity can get messy, so an art smock or old t-shirt is a great idea. Focus on the fun of stamping and making sounds.

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## Wrap-Up & Assessment:

### The Bug Parade (3 minutes)

Gather all the Play-Doh bugs C made. Line them up and have a "Bug Parade" across the table or floor. You can give each bug a silly name or talk about where it's marching to. This celebrates C's work and provides a clear, happy ending to the lesson.

### How to Know Learning is Happening (Informal Observation):

- Did C interact with the Play-Doh by squishing, rolling, or poking it?
- Did C attempt to place the legs or eyes on the bug creation?
- Did C show interest in the colors or make sounds during the activities?
- Did C smile, laugh, or seem actively engaged during the lesson? (This is the most important measure of success!)

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## Ideas for Differentiation:

- **For Extra Support:** If C is having trouble with the small pieces, you can pre-stick the pipe cleaner legs into the Play-Doh and just have C help you add the googly eyes. For painting, you can guide C's hand to show them how to dab the paint.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** If C is ready for more, you can go on a real bug hunt outside with the magnifying glass. Talk about the different bugs you find. Count their legs. You can also introduce sorting by color ("Let's put all the green bugs here!").

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