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Decorating Bug Squad Puppets

Lulu and the Bug Squad pretend they are insect characters. Children can decorate insect shapes and attach them to craft sticks to create bug squad puppets. Children can create scenes where their bug squad puppets crawl or fly along.



Activity works best with: Individual child, small groups, classrooms/libraries and activity stations at large events

Materials: A copy of *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*; Lakeshore Insect Shapes Project Kit; classroom glue; shallow dishes or tray to make materials accessible to children

Materials cost: \$\$\$

Preparation: Set out the materials for a small group of children to work together making bug squad puppets. Small pieces can be displayed in shallow dishes or trays so that children can easily take the materials they like. Adults may choose to glue craft sticks to the back of insect shapes ahead of time and let the glue dry so that puppets will stay intact.



Preparation time: Medium

Introduction: Show children the insect shapes and help them identify the different creatures (ladybug, butterfly, bee, and dragonfly). Remind children that these are the same insects that were members of the Bug Squad.

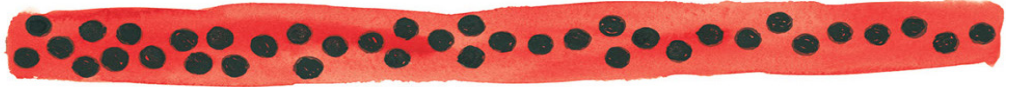
Activity: Help children select an insect shape, write their names on the insect, and glue a craft stick to the back of the insect shape. Encourage children to choose materials to decorate their puppet. Children should be encouraged to be creative in the way that they decorate their puppets. When children are finished, ask them if they can show you how their bug squad puppet moves.

There's more!



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Tips for conversation: While children decorate their puppets, engage them in conversations about the materials they choose. Ask children if their bug squad puppet has any superpowers. Prompt children to use completed puppets to retell the story of *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* or to make up a new story. Use words like **insect, antennae, smooth, wings, ladybug, dragonfly, butterfly, bumble bee, and sting.**

Learning Connection: Children's initiative skills are fostered when adults comment on children's work and play alongside with the same materials. Adults should allow children to use materials in ways that are meaningful to them and provide encouragement. Storytelling with puppets helps children develop comprehension skills.

