Hideout Book Center

Lulu and the Bug Squad dress up as specific insects and talk about the insects activities. Children can read informational books about insects in the "hideout."

Activity works best with: Individual child, small groups, classrooms/libraries

Materials: A copy of *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad;* informational books about insects; comfy pillows and pieces of loose fabric or sheets that can turn a classroom book center into a "hideout"

Materials cost: $

Preparation: Collect informational books about insects from a public library or from the classroom's library. Adults can create the hideout before introducing the activity to children, or children can participate in the hideout construction (see "Special Power Squad" activity).

Preparation time: Low

Introduction: Show children the page where Lulu and the bug squad arrive at the circle of pine trees and decide to call the place a hideout. Explain that a hideout is an imaginary space that can be used for play or for quiet activities like reading. Show children some of the informational books about insects and explain that the classroom hideout is going to be used for reading today.

Activity: Support children in selecting books to "read" to an adult or in learning more about a book when an adult reads to the children. Read a book together that children select. Children may want you to read or they may want to "read" a book to you on their own. Support children in this choice. Have a conversation with children about the pictures and the text. Name objects, insects, and people in the book as children ask you about them. Make connections to the insects featured in *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*.

Tips for conversation: Use detailed descriptions and rich language to acknowledge children's comments, extend what children have said, and describe what you see in the books. Use words like **hideout**, **fort**, **secret**, **password**, **insect**, **antennae**, **wings**, **ladybug**, **dragonfly**, **butterfly** and **sting**.