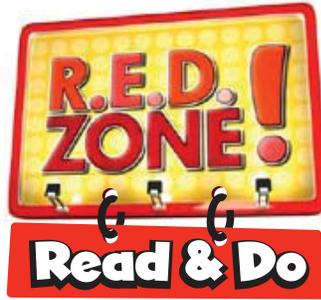


Hooray for Spring

by Kazuo Iwamura

Mick, Mack, and Molly are back - this time enjoying the fresh new signs of spring.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *In this book three little squirrels try to figure out what a baby bird eats. Do any of you know what a baby bird likes to eat?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why all these bees are flying around?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Hooray for Spring*

- leaped: to jump across something
- branch: a woody limb of a tree that grows out from the trunk
- caterpillars: the larva of a butterfly, with a long soft body, many short legs, and often brightly colored skin
- cherry blossoms: the flower of a cherry tree
- nectar: the sweet liquid that flowering plants produce
- pine-cones: the seed case of a pine tree, usually woody, oval, and scaly
- delicious: having an appealing or enjoyable taste
- honey: a sweet sticky golden-brown fluid produced by bees from the nectar of flowers
- acorns: the hard fruit of an oak tree
- raspberries: a small red cup-shaped fruit with a sweet taste
- mushrooms: an umbrella-shaped spore-producing body of a fungus
- walnuts: a deeply wrinkled nut that is enclosed in a hard shell

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Mick, Mack, and Molly come out to play because it's spring. Who knows why squirrels don't come out and play in the winter?
- Has anyone ever seen or touched a caterpillar? What do they look like? What do they feel like?
- Has anyone ever seen a bee? Why should you not play with bees?
- Who can remember all the different things the squirrels tried to feed the baby bird?
- Where do you think the mama bird found the fat green worm?

Do

Create a Worm Farm

Fill a sturdy, water-tight plastic container that is about seven inches deep, nine inches wide, and 14 inches long with some moist shredded newspaper (black and white pages), a few handfuls of garden soil and a couple of crushed egg shells. Keep the bedding damp not sopping (moisture helps the worms breathe and too much water will drown them). Worms are happier when kept in the dark so wrap the container with newsprint or tape black construction paper around it.

Red worms work the best. Do not use earthworms or night crawlers. You can feed your worms scraps of lettuce, corn, bread, oatmeal or pasta. Avoid too much acidic foods and never feed your worms meat, dairy products, or salty foods. These foods will create odors and attract insects. Your worms will eat about half their body weight each day so take that into consideration when deciding how much food to add.

Worms do require oxygen so keep the lid of the container partially open to allow the air to circulate. You should also turn the bedding with a trowel periodically to improve air circulation in the farm. Keep the farm at room temperature and out of direct sunlight.

Red worms reproduce often so watch for small, oval shaped cocoons in the bedding. Cocoons contain several baby worms and take several weeks to hatch. Happy farming!