

# BLINK AT HOME

## Buzzy Bees

### Can you pretend to be a bee?

#### Skills to Develop

- + Creative thinking
- + Science content knowledge
- + Social emotional skills

#### Materials

- + All about bees [PDF]
- + Pipe cleaners
- + Paper
- + Scissors
- + Pom poms
- + Toilet paper tubes
- + Tape or glue

### WHAT TO DO

#### During the Learning Activity

1. Discuss what your child knows about bees. Ask: *what do bees look like? What else do you know about bees?*
2. Read all about bees [PDF] or your favorite book about bees and look at the pictures. Ask: *what did you learn about bees? Why do bees fly around flowers? What do bees make for people to eat?*
3. Invite your child to create flowers out of the paper and pipe cleaners by cutting a flower shape out of the paper and pushing the pipe cleaner through the center of the flower to be the stem.
4. Invite your child to create honeycomb by cutting the toilet paper tubes into 1" segments, pinching them into hexagon shapes, and using the tape or glue to hold them together.
5. Place the flowers around the room and the honeycomb in a designated beehive area. Place the pom poms on or around the flowers to be pollen. Pretend play as bees flying around drinking from flowers, flying back to the hive to make honey, and moving pollen from flower to flower and back to the hive. Do your own version of the bee waggle dance to tell each other where to find the best flowers around the room.

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#### Extend the Fun

- + Learn about and pretend to be various insects, like ants.

# BLINK: BUZZY BEES

All about bees: Print and use

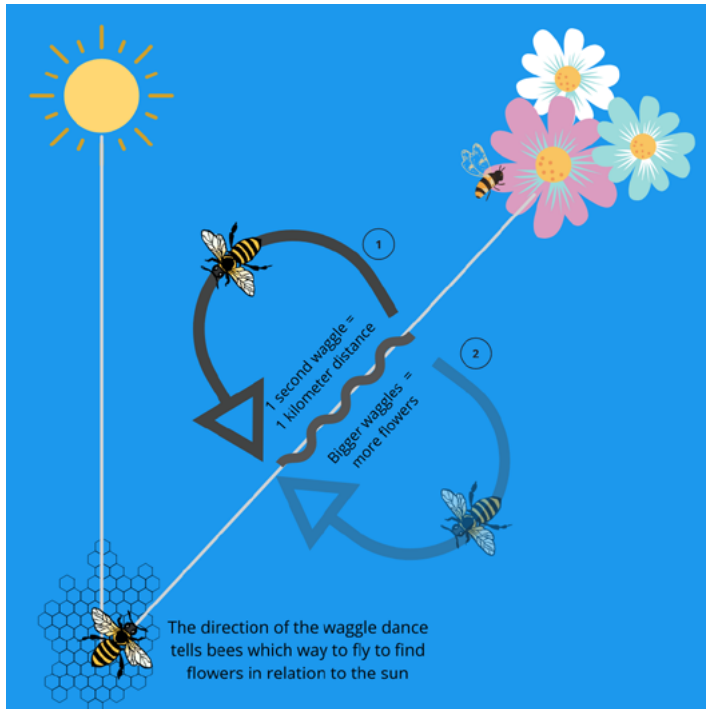
## Can you pretend to be a bee?

Bees are insects that have a really important job to help fruits and flowers grow. Bees fly from flower to flower drinking nectar. As they drink, pollen from the flower gets stuck to their fuzzy bodies and legs. Bees bring the pollen with them from one flower to the next flower, which helps the flowers grow. Some of these flowers grow into fruit that people like to eat. Bees also take some of the pollen home to their hive to feed baby bees.



"Overloaded honey bee" by Roberto F. is licensed with CC BY-NC 2.0.

Bees sometimes talk to other bees through dance. Bees do something called the waggle dance to show other bees back in the hive where to find flowers.



Christine Cassidy Itta, Anchorage Museum



"Observing the 'waggle dance' of bees..." by nashworld is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

The waggle dance starts by bees dancing in a straight line and wagging their tail end. A bigger, more enthusiastic waggle tells other bees there are lots of flowers. Each second of waggle dance tells other bees they will need to fly about a kilometer to reach the flowers. The direction of the straight line tells the bees which way to fly compared to the sun. A waggle dance straight up towards the top of the hive tells bees to fly towards the sun, while a waggle dance towards the bottom of the hive tells bees to fly away from the sun. When a bee has put all of this information into their waggle, they will make a circle to the left and repeat the waggle dance information again.





"bees making honey" by Shawn Caza is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Bees can drink a lot of nectar, as much as their own body weighs. They store the nectar in a special part of their body called a crop, or honey stomach. This is different than the stomach they use to digest food. Bees fly the nectar stored in their honey stomach back to the beehive. Some of this nectar is put into the honeycomb. The bees fan the nectar with their wings to remove extra water and cover it with beeswax. The final product is tasty honey, which many people like to eat!