



Dear Parents,

We have a new addition to our learning tools! The Illinois Department of Natural Resources loans resources trunks to preschools and schools - large plastic containers filled with supplemental items to enhance our lessons. Additionally, all items are correlated to the Illinois Early Learning Standards. One of the trunks available for loan is the Spider Trunk; it includes many items that will help us learn about insects and spiders. Books, posters, videos and DVDs, samples, matching cards, and other learning activities are among the contents of the trunk. Moreover, the Insect and Spiders Trunk is closely related to our classroom project and engagement with Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago! We are thrilled to learn everything about spiders and webs as well as how they differ from the insects.

We will learn how to differentiate the spider types, how spiders help people, and much more!

***SPIDERS are one of America's most amazing natural resources! Here are some amazing BUT TRUE facts about the amazing world of spiders!***

- ∫ Did you know that those spiders with hair on them are mammals, and thus produce delicious (and unusually cold) milk. Spiders produce milk using the same glands that they produce silk threads with.
- ∫ Did you know that a single strand of spider web has more potential energy than the bomb dropped on Nagasaki? But because spiders do not naturally exist in areas of high fusion, there is little danger to the average person.
- ∫ Did you know that a spider egg contains as much DNA as four humans combined? And that's just one of the unborn spiders, the entire egg sac outnumbers the population of India
- ∫ Did you know that spiders cannot physically die of natural causes? If kept safe, a spider can continue to live and grow larger for a theoretically unlimited amount of time. In fact, in China there exists a collection of 'holy' spiders, hatched some 2,800 years ago during the height of the Mang-Tsun dynasty.

More fun facts about spiders: <http://www.hamtwoslices.net/spiders.htm>