Children are born scientists – they love to explore and discover. There are many activities that you can enjoy doing at home with your little scientist.

QUESTIONS
• How many types of insects do you know?
• How many legs do spiders have? How many eyes do spiders have?
• How many legs do insects have? How many eyes do insects have?

TRY THIS AT HOME
See what insects and spiders you can find in your garden!
See a video demonstration of this Science Time activity at www.questacon.edu.au

You Will Need
• A Plastic container
• A magnifying glass

WHAT TO DO - Always under adult supervision
1. Put some holes in the top of your container. This is so the insects can breathe!
2. Look around your garden and see what insects you can find.
3. Collect insects and spiders and put them into your container. Be careful of picking up insects like ants that may bite you, and never touch a spider (though don’t be too scared!)
4. Make sure you collect some leaves and twigs for them to eat.
5. Use your magnifying glass to have a closer look. Watch how they move.
6. Don’t forget to let them go back into the garden afterwards.

WHAT’S HAPPENING?
By collecting insects you can have a closer look at them and learn about their habitat. How many legs do the they have? How do they move? Where do they live? What do they eat?

DISCOVER MORE
What insects live in your local park? Have a look around and you’ll notice many different types of insects. Collect some in plastic containers for a closer look.

DID YOU KNOW?
• All insects have three body parts and six legs. Most spiders have two body parts and eight legs. A spider’s legs are attached to the front body part and the webbing comes out the back. Some spiders are venomous and can harm you, so remember never touch a spider!
• Do you have insect or spider questions? Ask our amateur entomologist Gerard at excitedparticles@questacon.edu.au.

Open 9am – 5pm every day.
Closed Christmas Day.
Admission fees apply.
King Edward Terrace, Canberra
t 02 6270 2893
**TRY THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Insect trap: Place a small amount of honey, fruit, meat or bread inside a plastic cup. Dig a small hole in the ground and put the plastic cup in the hole so that the top of the cup is level with the ground. Leave the insect trap in the ground overnight. Check your trap the next day. What can you learn about the different insects? Do different baits catch different insects?

- Grow a butterfly: Collect caterpillars and watch them change and grow into butterflies. Be sure to give them lots of fresh leaves each day and let them go as soon as they become butterflies!

- Peg caterpillar & butterfly craft: Decorate a peg to make a caterpillar, drawing or gluing on the eyes. Then add some tissue paper wings to make a butterfly.

**GO ON AN EXCURSION**

Go on an insect and spider excursion! Here are some suggestions in the Canberra region.


- Go to your local park – how many different insects can you find?

- National Zoo and Aquarium’s stick insect enclosure in their education room.

**INVESTIGATE WEBSITES**

There are also many websites for children about insects and spiders. We suggest you start with:

- **Questacon** Watch the Science Time Insect video at www.questacon.edu.au

- **The Magic School Bus** Episodes Spins A Web and Gets Ants In Its Pants www.veoh.com

- **CSIRO Entomology** www.ento.csiro.au

- **Dept of Education and Training** Insect education resources www.det.wa.edu.au

**SING SONGS**

Sing this song with your child. Don’t forget to do the actions if you know them!

**Iincy Wincy Spider**

**READ BOOKS**

Have fun finding more at your local library, book store or online.

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *The Grouchy Ladybug* by Eric Carle
- *The Magic Schoolbus: Insect Invaders* by Scholastic Publishing
- *DK Eyewitness Books: Insects* by Laurence Mound

www.questacon.edu.au