



# Suck It Up

*Discovering the roles of bees through play*



**Theme:** Bees and other pollinators

**Time:** 20 mins

**Materials:**

- Straws ( 1 per child)
- Bowls (to be flowers)
- Jelly beans, pompoms or beads (different colours)

## Concepts:

- Every bee within the hive plays a special role
- Bees carry nectar and pollen from flowers back to the hive
- Bees often encounter threats that can affect the whole colony

## What to Do:

- Set up multiple bowls to represent "flowers". Add jelly beans, pompoms, beads, or any small item that can be picked up with a straw.
- Give each child an empty bowl to represent their hive.
- Using a straw, kids will visit the different flowers and pick up the "nectar" and bring it back to their hive. If there are multiple kids, you may add a competition to collect the most nectar.
- Set a time limit for collecting, then review what was collected with them.

## Explanation:

- Honeybees live in hives or colonies. Hives include 1 queen, hundreds of drones and thousands of worker bees.
- The queen creates all of the babies for the hive. Worker bees are all female and they collect nectar and pollen to create honey, care for larvae bees, clean and guard the hive, and build honeycomb. Drones are males whose only job is to mate with the queen.
- For this activity, the kids will all be "worker bees" collecting nectar.

# Discussion:

1. Review the collected nectar in each hive. Unfortunately, bees face many threats and some colours in the hive can be detrimental to the colony (change colours as needed depending on what you have). If any Yellow was collected, this means the hive is threatened by any of the following:
  - The flower was sprayed with a pesticide. The bees could become weak and not find their way back to the hive.
  - A parasitic varroa mite was picked up. These feed on honey bees in the hive.
  - Climate change threatens the entire hive.
2. Discuss with your kids how humans can help our pollinators.



Show us your learning in-action!



@ofahhfhc

