

Native Bee Role Play

Read out the following and suggest to children that they could act out the parts of the story (suggested actions and notes included).

Resources required:

- [Native Bee Finger Puppets](#)
- Small cushions or cotton balls

Story	Suggested Actions	Notes
<i>It is morning time and the golden sun is beginning to warm the Earth</i>	Stretch arms out like the rays of the sun	
<i>In one hive There are many busy bees The Queen bee is laying many eggs The maidens are busy caring and feeding the Queen bee and the baby brood Working together to keep the hive humming</i>	Place finger puppets on fingers (suggest one on each hand). Children could then move around the room, caring for multiple eggs (could use small cushions or cotton balls), with the bees quietly chatting to each other about what you are doing.	This is the hive of a social bee. There are 11 species of native social bees in Australia (you can search for a picture of their nest by typing “tetragonula nest” into Google Images). The European Honey Bee is also a social bee.
<i>In another nest A bee has built a tiny tunnel nest In a tree or plant stem Working alone Using clay or leaves or soil to build the snuggly cocoon. She lays her eggs And fills the burrow with pollen and nectar for the newly hatched bees to eat. She leaves them to hatch and grow without her help.</i>	One finger puppet could build a burrow in a gap between some cushions, and the bee could stock the burrow with pollen (cotton balls). Role-play working quietly to look after one or two eggs.	Most Australian native bees are solitary, working independently to build a nest and raise their eggs. The female bee will die before her eggs are hatched - sharing this detail is optional.

Story	Suggested Actions	Notes
<p><i>The bees have left the hive</i> <i>The flowers are blooming</i> <i>The bees are buzzing</i> <i>Collecting pollen and nectar</i> <i>To feed all the hungry bees in the hive</i> <i>Foragers buzz from flower to flower</i> <i>Buzz go the bees</i> <i>Hour after hour</i> <i>Buzz go the bees</i> <i>From flower to flower</i> <i>Sucking out the nectar and flying it home</i> <i>Storing up the nectar in the honeycomb</i> <i>Honey in the hive</i></p>	<p>Role-play bees visiting flowers (different station around the room), collecting pollen and nectar (could use blocks or balls), the bees are busy.</p> <p>Occasionally the bees should return to the hive to drop off pollen and nectar.</p>	
<p>The bees are singing:</p> <p><i>We're busy, busy, busy said all the buzzing bees</i> <i>We won't be home for supper or even for some tea</i> <i>It takes us hours and hours to visit all the flowers</i> <i>We're busy, busy, busy, busy, said all the buzzing bees.</i></p>	<p>Sing the song to the tune of 'Incy Wincy Spider'.</p>	
<p>When you're ready to wind up the story, read the following:</p> <p><i>The sun is starting to set and the Earth is cooling down</i> <i>In the hive the bees are returning home</i> <i>Settling their busy wings</i> <i>Resting their busy bodies</i> <i>Waiting for the sun to rise up again in the morning.</i></p>	<p>Role-play the bees wearily returning to the hive or nest, and preparing to go to sleep.</p>	