

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: LoveBugs

Celebrating love on Valentine's Day is a delightful experience and can be an educational one too. This simple activity offers a wonderful opportunity to honour love and friendship in a creative way.

Learning aims

- Fine motor skills - cutting, gluing and decorating
- Social skills - cooperation and sharing
- Creativity skills
- Knowledge of a special day in the UK calendar.

Resources

- Construction/sugar paper (various colours)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers
- Markers/crayons/paints (optional).



Activity outline

1. Find out what children already know about Valentine's Day. Discuss and explain that it's a celebration of love, kindness and friendship
2. Tell the children that they are going to make a LoveBug in celebration of Valentine's Day. Discuss features of bugs that they've seen or know about
3. Ask the children to share their ideas about what shape they are going to cut for the body of the LoveBug (offer support with cutting where needed)
4. Glue on the eyes (let the children decide how many, after all spiders have eight!)
5. Create antennae using the pipe cleaners. (Let children decide their length, how many and where they are placed on the bug)

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6. Encourage the children to have fun and use their creativity to decorate their bugs with the variety of resources you've provided
7. Throughout the activity, encourage children to talk about the people they love or appreciate in their lives. Model the language for them by sharing information about someone you love and care about e.g. 'I love my daughter. She is very kind and makes me laugh. Recently, we went climbing together and had great fun!'
8. Once completed, gather children to talk about their LoveBugs and share something they love or appreciate about a friend or loved one.

Extension ideas:

- Create a story about the LoveBug – act it out (in small groups with multiple LoveBugs)
- Create a LoveBug interactive display.

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- [Creative storytelling in the early years](#)