

**PARENT TAKE-IT-HOME HANDOUT- for JULY 23, 2017 - by Mary Collins at the Unitarian Church in Westport
For PRE-K & Wiggly children**



TOPIC: FOREST ARTISTS- BOOK/VIDEO:

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

or the **Animated Story Video (3:48 mins):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfLOg-XXnA>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The spider was busy making her web and didn't answer the other animal's requests to play. Was that a good, or not so good, thing?

Consider these two ways of looking at it:

- **Good:** *She was persistent, which means she stayed with her job of making the web without distraction. That helps get things that are important to you done. If she didn't make the web she wouldn't eat.*
- **Not so Good:** *Being "busy" all the time and ignoring our friends or family can bring up feelings of loneliness and can feel uncaring to the person asking to connect with you.*

Note: In life it's important to notice our actions and how they affect other people or creatures, as well as our own needs. It's not easy to figure that out so pay attention – inside and out!

- 2. Did the animal friends ask the spider to "play" in ways that the spider could? (nope) Did they notice the web that the spider was making?** This is something people do some times; we want our friends to do what we like or are good at and forget to look and ask with curiosity: "What are you doing?" or "What would you like to play?" or to consider their abilities and needs. **What could spider have said to all the other animals instead of nothing at all?**
- "I can play after lunch, right now I need to do this."
 - "Glad you asked me, but I can't swim. Maybe we could climb a tree instead? Or play a game..."
- 3. Do you notice the beauty of nature every day? (Ask at meal time or bedtime) What did you notice today?** We are blessed with beauty all around us. Make time for moments of AWE and WONDER and MINDFULNESS!

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES:

"I walk in beauty. Beauty is before me, beauty is behind me, beauty is above and below. Beauty is all around me."

- **Here's the prayer with still images:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKJetxgyA_8
- **And Calming Song version from the Navajo tradition "Here I Walk in Beauty"** NAC Song, Navajo Singer, Kansas K. Begaye <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuvVw2CvuaDU>

- **Look for a Spider's web one morning when the dew is still fresh and the sunlight bedazzles it.**
- **If you are afraid of spiders learn more about them and remember you are BIGGER than they are and you don't have to squish them just because you are afraid.**

- **Craft: Create spider webs with glue, and yarn or string & put these friendly spiders on it.**

<http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2013/10/pipe-cleaner-spider-preschool-craft.html>

