



Thank you for your interest in this ***The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That*** Ready to Learn backpack. The education team at Iowa PBS is excited that you have chosen to enrich your child's learning.

## Contents

**3 Books:** *Insectigations: 40 Hands-On Activities to Explore the Insect World* by Cindy Blobaum  
*Bugs A to Z* by Caroline Lawton  
*On Beyond Bugs: All About Insects from the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library* by Tish Rabe

**Activities:** Games and craft ideas

**Materials:** Sight Word bugs, swatter, bug catcher, net, two-way bug viewer, Insect Match cards

## Reading Skills

**Sight Word Bugs:** Scatter the sight word bugs on the table. Read a word out loud and have your child "catch" the bug by swatting the word. Collect/catch the words that are correctly identified. How many bugs can be caught? You can also create your own bugs to help your child identify numbers, solve math problems or reinforce different vocabulary words.

**Match up:** Use the Insect Match cards to play Memory, matching the picture of the bug to its name.

**Play Old Maid:** Deal all of the cards. Each player draws one card from the player on their right without looking at that player's cards, then places any pairs they can make on the table. The person with the most pairs wins.

## Play Together

Playing with your child can be fun for them and for you, and asking questions will help your child learn.

- Use sorting and matching skills as you examine the sight word bugs. Go on a nature hike in your own backyard and collect specimens of bugs and insects. Make sure you release the bugs and insects back into nature when you are finished observing them.
- Use your scientific skills. What is a bug compared to an insect? How many examples are you able to locate? Use the books to help understand the difference between a bug and an insect. Make a list of the bugs and insects that may be found in your area and go on a scavenger hunt. (Here are a few ideas: ant, bee, wasp, fly, grasshopper, dragonfly, butterfly, stink bug, cricket, moth, insect without wings, insect with 3 or more colors, insect with one color.)
- Use the net to collect different insects in the yard. How many different species did you find? Are you able to label the species? Visit Insects of Iowa at [insectsofiowa.org](http://insectsofiowa.org) if you need help. Use a magnifier to get a close look at your bug. Is it an insect? Does it have the three body parts—head, thorax and abdomen? Check pages 10 and 11 in the book *On Beyond Bugs from The Cat in the Hat* for help.

## Online Activities

Go to [iowapbs.org/education/story/36383/science-resources-and-activities-ages-4-8](http://iowapbs.org/education/story/36383/science-resources-and-activities-ages-4-8) to watch *What Are Insects* with Iowa PBS host Abby Brown, ***Wild Kratts: Fireflies*** and ***Science Trek: Insects***. Play the ***Curious George: Bug Catcher*** online game.

Find more information about Iowa PBS Education at [iowapbs.org/education](http://iowapbs.org/education). More PBS educational content can be found at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org).