BEE DANCE TREASURE HUNT

A forager bee must go outside of the hive to collect water, pollen or nectar. For this game we are calling these vital resources treasure. A single bee cannot bring in enough resources/treasure, so she needs a way to tell other bees where she found it. The bee dance is a way for bees to communicate with each other.

The bee dance—The Waggle Dance—is a figure 8 dance. If the dancing bee turns to the left or right at the beginning of the dance determines the direction other bees must travel—North, South, East or West. If the middle of the figure 8, the waggle part is long, it means the flower or water source is further away from the hive. If the waggle part of the figure 8 is shorter, the source is closer. If the figure 8 becomes a plain circle the resource is just outside of the hive. The bee wiggles her rump while she’s dancing (which is why it’s called the waggle dance) and other bees come close to her, to make sure they get the directions.

To play this game, everyone needs to learn how to do the Waggle Dance.

First practice the waggle standing still. Bump your hip out to the right, bump your hip to the left. Try saying “waggle” with each bump. Try it three times, so you are hip bumping and saying “waggle, waggle waggle.” Once everyone can waggle standing still try doing it walking.

Look at the diagram below.
Imagine the diagram is big and drawn on the floor where you are. We drew the diagram with two circles to show that the bee walks in both directions after she finishes the waggle. Bees do it in one place and so will you.

Walk forward along the center, wiggly line. Step forward with your right foot and bump your hip out to the right, step forward with your left and bump your hip to the left. Once again, step forward on your right foot and bump your hip out to the right. When you are at the top of the circle. Turn one direction, it doesn’t matter which, and walk around in a half circle back to the beginning. Do it again turning to the other side. This is the figure 8.

Everyone try this a few times. It can be fun and encouraging, for everyone to sing “waggle, waggle, waggle and back around.” You can go fast or slow.

Practice the bee dance together so that everyone learns the dance. Get familiar how to give directions. For the purpose of this game, dance the waggle part directly towards the treasure. Try dancing the waggle of the figure 8 long to show that the treasure is far away. Everyone dance a short waggle in the figure 8 to show the treasure is close. Remember a circle with no figure eight at all means the treasure is right outside the hive. Can you try dancing that circle?

Take a little break and get ready to begin the Bee Dance Treasure Hunt.
ON TO THE TREASURE . . .

Agree on an object that represents the treasure the bees are looking for. Stand opposite each other or make a circle. Choose someone to be the first forager bee and have them stand in the middle holding the treasure. Everyone except the forager bee, cover your eyes and buzzzzzz so you can’t see or hear. The forager bee hides the object, and returns to the center of the circle. Everyone opens their eyes and the forager bee dances the bee dance to tell the other bees where to find the treasure. Take turns being the forager bee and try hiding the treasure close by and in rooms far away.

Have fun and adapt as needed. Bee dance could be danced to buzzing or music of your choice.

Try limiting the number of places the treasure can be hidden. Show all players the places before the bee dance begins.

Hide treats for your kids telling them how to find them with the Bee Dance!

For older kids or those who have learned about angles, check out this link to learn how the bees use angles and the placement of the sun in the sky to give exact directions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7iJl-g4jHg

Draw a treasure map. Use a drawing of the waggle dance as the secret clue that must be decoded to find the treasure. Don’t forget to include the location of the sun. See if family members can find hidden treasure using your map!

Some of the things that bees treasure the most are pollen, water and nectar.