

ACTIVITY TIME

Busy Little Creatures

By Fiona Bowden and Raising Literacy Australia

Make your own worm farm

What You Need:

- Clear plastic 2 litre bottle
- Scissors
- Sand, soft soil, garden soil, compost (as many different types of soil as you can find)
- Water
- Worms (about 5 – you can carefully find them in your garden or buy worms from a gardening store)
- Leaves
- Large pieces of paper or cardboard (newspaper, black or dark coloured)
- Gardening gloves.

What You Do:

1. Clean the bottle
2. Cut off the top of the plastic bottle. Cut $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way from the top.
Adult help required
3. Add one layer of damp soil to the bottle, then a layer of sand.
Repeat until the bottle is just over half full
4. Put gardening gloves on and add leaves to the bottle
5. Add your worms
6. Replace the top of your bottle
7. Cover your worm farm by wrapping a large piece of paper or cardboard around the bottle – make sure it is nice and dark. Secure with a piece of tape. This will allow you to lift the cover and see your worms in action.
Place worm farm in a cool spot in your garden with no direct sunlight
8. Over the next few weeks watch the worms.
 - a. Can you see their tunnels?
 - b. How long does it take until the sand and soil mix together?
 - c. Is the soil still damp? You might need to add a little bit of water.

Take photos to track how their progress changes over time.

What to feed your worms:

- Raw vegetable scraps – a little bit of carrot peelings, onion peel, potato etc. Just drop them on the top.
- Do not feed your worms any cooked food, citrus fruits or meat.

When you are finished with your worm farm, simply empty the entire contents (worms, too!) back in your garden or a soil area in your yard.



Adult supervision is essential. Involve and talk with your child as much as possible.



***You can introduce simple Science Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) concepts to children aged 2+ years through every day play.**

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