



Bugs, Worms, & Nature

WTG At Home, Spring Quarter Weeks 5 & 6

Materials listed in purple will be provided at March 25th Art Pickup

Art Activity: “Worm” Painting

Materials: **White paper**, cooked spaghetti, paint

Directions: Cook and drain your spaghetti. Rinse with cold water or add some oil to prevent the noodles from sticking together. Set out 2-3 colors of paint on paper plates. Show your toddler how to drag the spaghetti through the paint and then on the paper to make fun designs.



Art Activity: Coffee Filter Butterflies

Materials: **Coffee Filter, Pipe Cleaner, eyedropper or straw, food coloring (multiple colors)**

Directions: Lay the coffee filter out flat on your work surface. It's a good idea to lay down something absorbent under the coffee filter. Fill small cups with water and use the food coloring to color each cup a different color. Use the eyedropper or straw to drop different colors of water on the coffee filter. Try to cover the entire filter, then let it dry completely. Once the coffee filter is dry, accordion fold it then wrap the pipe cleaner around the center to make the body and antennae. Open up the wings to make your butterfly!



Fine Motor: Bug “fossils” with playdough



Materials: Plastic bugs, playdough

Directions: Press the plastic bugs into the playdough to make impressions.

Fine Motor: Cheerio Worms

Materials: Pipe Cleaner, Cheerios or other “o” shaped cereal

Directions: Slide one Cheerio on to the pipe cleaner and loop the end around it to stop the others from sliding off. Ask your toddler to string Cheerios along the pipe cleaner to make a worm. When you are finished, bend the other end into a head shape (adding eyes is optional).



Extensions: Count the Cheerios as you add them. Predict how many Cheerios it will take to make one worm. If you are using a cereal with different colors, encourage your child to make a pattern.

Imaginative Play: Fly Like a Bug!

Materials: Scarves, pillowcases, t-shirts, or any cloth items that can be used as wings

Directions: Turn on some music and fly around the house like bugs!

Extensions: Challenge your toddler to fly slowly, quickly, using big “flaps”, small “flaps”, etc.



Imaginative Play: Searching for Bugs

Materials: Plastic bugs, 2 empty toilet paper rolls and piece of yarn or string to make “binoculars” (optional)

Directions: Hide the plastic bugs around the house or yard. Pretend your toddler is a scientist searching for bugs. Go on an expedition to find them! You can make “binoculars” out of two empty toilet paper rolls and a piece of string to add more pretend play fun.



Extensions: Ask your toddler to describe the bugs as they find them. To challenge them, ask them to tell you what they think the bugs eat, where they live, etc.

Gross Motor: Bug on a Branch

Materials: Sidewalk Chalk

Directions: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a branch on the ground. Walk on the branch like a bug! Try hopping on the branch, flapping your wings while you’re walking, running, or walking backwards.



Extensions: Challenge your toddler to walk heel-to-toe along the branch.

Sensory Bin: Dirt and Worms!

Materials: Rubber worms, plastic bugs, Soil—avoid potting soil with fertilizer added, shovels, small rakes, buckets, plastic bugs, live worms (optional), toy trucks, etc. Add a magnifying glass if you have one to examine the worms.

Directions: Fill your sensory bin with soil, rubber worms, and plastic bugs. Let your child play in the dirt! To add more fun, add some live worms. Live worms can be purchased at various places, Fred Meyer typically has them.



Sensory Bin: Lentils



Materials: Dried lentils, **plastic bugs**, shovels, small rakes, buckets, funnels, toy trucks, etc.

Directions: Fill your sensory bin with dried lentils, add the plastic bugs and let your toddler explore. Both orange and green lentils are sold, try mixing both colors.

Science: Butterfly Scavenger Hunt

Materials: **Butterfly Picture Cards**, pencil or crayon (optional)



Directions: Scatter the butterflies outside or inside and go on a scavenger hunt to find them. Use as many or as few as you'd like.

Adaptations: Only use the green butterflies for younger toddlers.

Extensions: Use the butterflies of different colors and use the additional sheet for your toddler to record the butterflies they find. They can put an x or a check mark on ones they find. Once you've found all the butterflies, talk about the ways in which they are the same and the ways they are different. Sort them by color (only works if you use the different colored butterflies.) Count the butterflies once you have found them. Ask older toddlers to record how many they find of each color using either tallies or numerals.

Songs and Finger Plays:

[Bumblebee Buzz Buzz](#)

[Five Little Butterflies](#)

[Inchworm Song](#)

[I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee](#)

[Rocks and Flowers](#)

[Stump Hotel](#)

Read Alouds:

[Hank's Big Day, by Evan Kuhlman](#)

[The Very Quiet Cricket, by Eric Carle](#)

[In the Tall, Tall Grass, by Denise Fleming](#)

[Worm Weather, by Jean Taft](#)

[Inch by Inch, by Leo Lionni](#)

[I Love Bugs, by Emma Dodd](#)



