



Nature Tots

At home

Worms

This is a suggested list of learning activities that you can do at home, all linked to a specific local wildlife theme. The plan has been created with under fives in mind but may be appropriate for other ages.

Book suggestion

Superworm by Julia Donaldson

This funny book about a superworm is a new children's classic, with easily repeated phrases throughout. If you don't have the book you can watch and hear it read aloud [here](#).

Search in your garden for worms

Find a bit of bare ground and encourage your children to dig for worms, if you haven't got appropriate tools don't worry, anything will do for a digging tool - an old kitchen spoon, or even a stick will do the job. See how many you can find, and how long they are! Remember to put them back when you're finished, they don't like to be warm and dry.



Nature Tots at Home

Worms cont.

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Worm charming

Grass and water

Try to charm the worms from the soil. Pretend to be a blackbird and hop up and down on damp grass, the worms come to the surface because of the vibrations. Whilst gently dancing up and down, keep an eye on your feet as the worms pop up to see what's going on. How many worms can you charm – don't try this on a dry day, they only really like damp soil.

Make a worm craft

Clay, playdoh or mud!

If you have clay or playdoh try to see how long a worm you can make. Depending on the soil in your garden, you might be able to squidge it together into a ball, and then roll it out to make a mud worm. You can also make homemade playdoh with these simple ingredients: plain flour, salt, oil, warm water and food colouring (optional). Find instructions online [here](#).

Woolly worm hunt

Wool or string

Cut short lengths of string or wool and hide them around the garden or inside your house and have a worm treasure hunt!



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More information

Facts: there are over 5000 species of earthworm, ranging in size from 2cm to 3 metres long!

The earthworm eats decaying matter, leaf litter and tiny organisms. Earthworms are important to the environment; breaking down organic matter and passing it through their gut as newly enriched soil. An earthworm has no teeth, so it swallows grit to help grind food up.

Links to the Early Year Foundation Stage Framework

- Communication and Language – Understanding the World

