

# Creating a wormery

Children can learn about the importance of worms by making a simple home wormery. What you'll need:

- 2 litre clear, plastic bottle
- Sharp sand
- A few worms
- Water sprayer to dampen layers
- Worm food – grated carrot, vegetable peelings (not citrus fruit or onions). dead leaves, shredded newspaper
- Compost or soil or a mixture of both
- Black card or paper to wrap round the bottle



Collect some worms from the garden. Look in the compost heap, under stones in damp places or dig a hole.

Cut the top  $\frac{1}{4}$  off the bottle, to make a lid. Make a slit in the side of the lid so that the top can close over the bottom part.

Fill the bottle with alternating layers of sand, soil, sand, compost, sand etc. Spray each layer with water so that it is damp.

Add a few worms to the top of the bottle and watch them burrow down. Then add the 'food' to the top. Wash hands well after handling worms and compost.

Wrap the black cardboard around the bottle to make it dark. Worms do not like light, and it will encourage them to burrow around the outside of the bottle so they can be observed.

Place the wormery in a warm place. Remove the cardboard for observation periods and record findings. Check that the contents are damp and that there is food available for the worms.

After 1 week, release the worms back into the garden.