

Nature Tots

At Home

Worms

Storytime suggestion

'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson.

If you don't have the book, listen to it read aloud [here](#) under the 'Worms and Magic' section.

Go worm charming

Worms do not have eyes or ears but they are sensitive to light and vibrations. This is why they come up to the surface when rain hits the floor. If you pretend to be a blackbird and hop around on some grass you may well just char some worms out of the soil. It might even help if you sing the 'Wiggly Woo' song or chant a magic spell. Keep watching the ground so that when they come up you do not stand on them and this is better done on damp ground as worms do not like dry weather.

You could also try digging gently in some soil to see if you can find any. How many can you find? Are they all the same length and colour? Watch how they move—can you wriggle like a worm? Look at our diagram below and see if you can work out which end is the head and which is the tail.

Remember not to keep them out of the soil for too long and to put them back when you finish as worms need to stay cool and damp.





Make a wormery

Worms are magic! They work to keep the soil healthy and that means we can grow lots of plants for food. Worms can eat their own body weight in food every day! They eat dead plants, fallen leaves and even dead animals, recycling them back into the soil. This makes sure the soil is packed with important nutrients that help plants grow..

Worms also help soil by digging burrows. This loosens the soil adds air spaces and room for water to drain through the soil.

As worms live underground its very hard to see this happening, but you can make a wormery so that you can watch worms in action. To find out how to do this,

Make a worm

Once you have looked carefully at your worms, try making some out of mud, clay or Play Doh. How long a worm can you make? What shape were their heads and tails? Could you tell the difference? Did they have any patterns along their bodies that you can add to your worm?

Make a magic potion

Make a magic potion to keep all the marvelous worms safe! Take a plastic cup outdoors and hunt round for some magic worm potion ingredients (nothing that is alive!):

Something that smells nice

Something that feels soft

Something that feels slimy

Something that is brown

Then add in a little bit of magic water (add some food colouring to your water if you want to make it super special) and use a small stick to mush up your ingredients. Next choose somewhere to cast your spell and say a few magic words as you pour it onto the ground.

