Felt Flowerbox inspired by *Up in the Garden, down in the Dirt*

This activity explores the plants and insects of the layers of a garden—from the rock or clay, through the dirt and topsoil, to what we can see on the surface. This fun project is fun to pair with a real gardening project, so kids can really appreciate the different layers of the garden.

**Step 1: Supplies**
- A small, shallow box or tub (we used a small paper bread liner)
- Felt
- Straws or pipe-cleaners
- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue or hot glue gun
- Fake insects and worms

**Step 2: Trace**
Make a pattern for your felt by tracing the bottom of your “flowerbox” on scrap paper and cutting it out.

**Step 3: Cut**
Cut the felt layers using your paper pattern. We used about two pieces of felt for each layer, including rock, hard soil, looser soil, topsoil, and grass layers. Cut slits in the felt in the top three layers of felt for your flowers to “grow” in.

**Step 4: Make**
Make flowers for your garden. Using whatever craft supplies you have on-hand, create colorful flowers with sturdy stems (so the flower will stand up once it’s placed into the box)

**Step 5: Build**
Have fun building your flowerbox! Place the different layers in one at a time, adding worms and beetles in the dirt layers and ladybugs, crickets, and caterpillars in the top layer with your flowers.

**Step 3: Variations**
- Make all the bugs and citteres out of felt instead of using plastic ones.
- Use real flowers by dropping the stem into a straw and gently tucking into the slit in the felt layers.