Bug Observatory

inspired by Up in the Garden, Down in the Dirt

This old-school activity is a favorite of my kids' (and a childhood rite of passage, don’t your think?). We usually collect different plants and insects depending on the season, and only observe for a couple days before returning our critters to the wild.

Step 1: Supplies
- Glass jar with lid
- Potting soil
- Access to nature
- Magnifying glasses

Step 2: Prep
Get your observatory ready for bugs by putting some potting soil in the bottom of a clean glass jar. Punch holes in the lid.

Step 3: Collect
Using your temporary collection container, collect rocks, pinecones, sticks, leaves, and insects. For this observatory, my kids wanted worms, so no lid was needed.

Step 4: Build
Build a nice home for your little bugs with the stuff from collected outside-rocks, branches, leaves, etc. Don’t forget to add water to the soil if needed.

Step 5: Add Bugs
Carefully place your bugs, insects, or worms inside the cosy home you’ve made for them.

Step 6: Observe!
We had a fun time talking about how our bugs were burrowing down in the dirt, and how that helps things grow. The glass made it easy to locate our worms as they travelled through the dirt.