Be a Worm Detective
for Ages 2–5

Finding worms can be a fun way to play detective and strengthen those observational skills!

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:
Outdoor space to look for worms

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:
Magnifying glass and a shovel

1. Ask children, “If you were a worm where would you live?” to start their investigation. Worms love moist soil and dead plant material like fallen leaves. Can you find a space like that outside? Go to it!

2. Look for evidence of worms around this area. Worm castings (poop) and holes in the ground are great indicators of worms.

3. Once you find your worm, you can pick it up. Worms are great creatures for young children to hold because they are gentle and easy to find. A good way to protect the worms from small, squeezing hands is to place them on the back of the hand.

4. When children can explore and have hands-on experiences like this, they learn how to handle animals without harming them. To keep having fun with the worm, children can even build it a small habitat or home outside.

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:
Learn a bit more about worms from Smile and Learn or watch a reading of Diary of a Worm.
You can also make a worm composting bin for your home!