

# Free Range Play at home

## Bug Hunting

Not a day goes by in the forest when a child doesn't find a worm, woodlouse or other mini beast hiding under a log or in the mud.

One of the most wonderful moments in the forest was when a young child discovered a worm for the first time and came running to get me shouting "nake nake nake" I went with him to view the snake he had discovered and soaked up the excitement as he showed me a most impressive worm. Equally exciting was the discovery of a very majestic stag beetle on the path on our walk into the forest. Mini beast, bugs, beetles, insects, whatever you call them are fascinating and wonderful!



Whilst it may not be the time of year for stag beetles, there are still plenty of worms, woodlouse, bees, butterflies and other insects to discover if you have a garden to explore. Try lifting logs, bricks and large stones to see what may be hidden underneath.

Worm charming is great fun too. Try tapping on the ground with a large spoon and wait for those worms to come up to the surface to see what is going on!

If you can't get outside or don't have a garden maybe you could have a bug hunt indoors? Painting or using felt tips to make bugs on stones is great fun.

If you don't have stones handy you could use paper or the cardboard from a cereal box.

Create your bugs and then hide them around your home to discover on an indoor bug hunt. If you have a garden you can hide them outside too. It's great fun and you can hide them again and again. When you have found them all, maybe you could make a bug house from toilet roll tubes, cereal boxes and any other recycling you have around. If you don't have glue, sticky tape makes a good fixer and is great for practicing fine motor skills!



Happy hunting!