

STORY TIME RESOURCES

OVER IN THE GARDEN

STORY TIME DESCRIPTION

Insects and other bugs are present in every garden. Some are very evident others you have to look more closely for them. Some of them are either a friend or foe to the garden. Insects and other bugs help us in lots of cool ways. Today's story is [Over in the Garden](#) by Jennifer Ward; a one to ten counting book about insects set in a lively garden. Read and sing to the tune of "Over in the Meadow" while moving like the insects and searching for the hidden numbers on each page.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

- **Bug Theme:** [Prekinders](#) provides resources like related books, songs, nursery rhymes, activities, and other links for implementing a bug themed unit.
- **Insects Unit Study:** [Gift of Curiosity](#) offers a unit of study on insects. They provide lessons on bee's, butterflies, ants, ladybugs, and silk worms.
- **Bug and Insect Habitat:** [How to build a simple bug hotel](#)

EXPLORATION (TAKE IT OUTSIDE)

Teaching young children about insects and bugs may seem complex, but it's not. This topic is fun and a great way to introduce your little ones to STEM concepts. You never know you just might have a budding entomologist waiting to emerge. Grab the kids and head outside for a bug hut! Below are some ways to support and guide their interest in bugs.

- Supply recycle containers for children to collect dead bugs (specimen)
- Allow children to search for bugs and insects in your compost piles or bins
- Provide child-friendly field guides
- Embrace their natural curiosity about bugs
- Plant a variety of plants that attract pollinators
- Model how to "observe" before "interacting" with bugs and insects
- Model how to "catch and release" (Use the Goodbye Poem)
- Give them journals to write or draw about bugs they see or want to learn about
- Take children outside daily

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

- **Yoga for Kids: Getting Buggy with It:** [Kids Yoga Stories](#) provides resources, books, and fun interactive ways to support yoga and mindfulness.
- **Backyard Book Series:** [Backyard Book Series](#) is a series of nonfiction books about different bugs and insects written by Judy Allen.
- **Making Observations/Beetles Project:** Use the concept of “I notice, I wonder, and It reminds me of” to investigate plant parts beetlesproject.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/I-Notice-I-Wonder-It-Reminds-Me-Of.pdf
- **What’s an Insect? Everyday Learning:** VPM PBS has a video called [What’s an Insect?](#) There’s supporting materials about how to identify a bug from an insect.
- **Watch [All About Insects for Children: Bee’s, Butterflies, Ladybugs, Ants and Flies for Kids](#)** by Free School to learn how to identify a bug from an insect.

RELATED CHILDREN’S FICTION AND NON-FICTION BOOKS

- [Some Bugs](#) by Angela DiTerlizzi
- [Bugs in the Garden](#) by Beatrice Alemagna
- [What Lives in the Garden?](#) by John Woodward
- [Over Under in the Garden: An Alphabet Book](#) by Pat Schories
- [Bugs A to Z](#) by Caroline Lawton
- [What if There Were No Bee’s?](#) by Suzanne Slade
- [Hello World! Backyard Bugs](#) by Jill McDonald
- [The Backyard Bug Book for Kids: Storybook, Insect Facts, and Activities](#) by Lauren Davidson