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](https://www.prekinders.com) provides resources like related books, songs, nursery rhymes, activities, and other links for implementing a bug themed unit.
- **Insects Unit Study:** [Gift of Curiosity](https://www.giftofcuriosity.com) 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](https://www.bughotel.com)

**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 o 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.
- **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