

OKC Harvest Worm Bin Building Activity

1. The garden educator will read a story, Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser (or other story depending on the age of the students), to the class and engage with them about worm facts. Through this discussion students are introduced to the idea that worms help us recycle in the garden and inside a worm bin. Students will learn about appropriate food waste for a worm composting bin. They will also see and touch some finished worm castings, which is the fabulous fertilizer generated as resource by worms from food waste.

2. Students experience an active worm bin while helping prepare materials and learning about their new bin. One group (of 4-5 kids) at a time will come up to look inside an established bin, hold a worm, and look at the other materials in the bin. Students will be shown how to move the bedding back and bury the food systematically around the bin, adding a little water if needed or adding additional newspaper to soak up excess water if needed. Meanwhile, other groups make a supply of shredded, newspaper for the new bin. When they are done with the newspaper, they can color a worm menu worksheet about foods that are good for feeding the worms in their new bin.

3. Once each group has seen the active bin up close, the students will watch the garden educator set up the class worm bin. From here, the teacher and class will become responsible for feeding the worms and observing the balance of moisture and materials in the bin. The worksheet will be useful as a take-home for educating kids (and parents) what foods to bring for feeding the worms. If teachers prefer to sidestep the process of kids bringing food from home, he or she can supply the food waste and just let the kids take turns adding it to the bin. The worms need about a handful per day, or 5-7 handfuls per week.

The first 24 hours, the lid should be left off to help the worms orient to the darkness of the bottom of the bin. Acceptable food scraps that kids can bring from home are coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, raw carrot tops, raw broccoli stems. It is helpful if food waste is chopped up by a parent or you before putting it in the bin, though this is not essential. Cooked food, grains, meat, dairy or bones are not desired.



Worm Menu



fruit and fruit peels

vegetables, peels and tops

coffee grounds and filters

tea leaves and tea bags

pasta and rice

melons and peels

flowers and stems

leaves, brown and green





