

## Deeply Rooted Lesson Plan – Preschool

### EARTHWORMS

#### *Ten Little Worms, Living in the Dirt!*

**Recommended Grade Level:** Pre-K

**Duration:** 1-2 class periods

#### **Background**

Earthworms are often misunderstood slimy friends who help make our soil the best it can be. They break down decaying leaves and grass – leaving behind a wonderful fertilizer. This fertilizer stays in the soil and helps plants grow. Having earthworms in your garden or yard help stir up the soil to increase air and water flow.

#### **Objectives**

- Students will use tools of observation and inquiry to understand the basics of the earthworm’s purpose.
- Students will have basic knowledge of why earthworms live in certain areas.
- Students will build on their earthworm knowledge by utilizing fine motor skills and counting.

#### **Materials**

- Book: Wonderful Worms (trunk content)
- Internet
- Playdough
- Worm Playdough counting mat (trunk content)

#### **Lesson Preparation**

- Read students the book Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser (trunk content).
- Watch #Wizz, Worms for Kids video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O40A-6Jmt4>
- Show students real worms and count how many they can find living in the dirt.

#### **Activity:**

- a. Give students a worm Playdough mat from the trunk.
- b. Provide Playdough color of choice.
- c. Show students how to make worms with Playdough and place in the “dirt”, counting as you go.
- d. Use playdough to build fine motor skills.

**Analysis:**

- Discuss the benefits of earthworms during the activity.
- Ask students if earthworms help us grow things.
- Gauge the increased motor skill function during activity.

**VOCABULARY:**

***Decay*** – to rot or waste away.

***Dirt*** – loose or packed soil or sand.

***Earthworm*** – relatively small, naked, and soft bodied animal that lives in the soil.

***Fertilizer*** – something added to the soil to help the plants grow. Kind of like how some people take vitamins!

***Soil*** – the upper layer of earth that we can dig or plow and in which plants grow.