

# Our Pet Worms

KINDER

EUSD's district-wide waste diversion system relies, in part, on composting our lunchtime fruit and vegetable scraps in a worm bin. Students are trained to place their fruit and vegetable scraps in a special bucket that is brought to the garden and placed in the worm bin. Taking kindergarten students to visit the worm bin is the first step in explaining how our wiggly friends help us reduce food waste at school.

## SUBJECT

EXPLORE

## TIME

30 MIN

## MATERIALS

School Worm Bin

Cardboard Trays

Magnifying lens, 1 per student (optional)

Blank paper, 1 per student

Clipboards, 1 per student

Crayons, several to share

## DIRECTIONS

- In the classroom, explain to students that they are going to the garden to meet some very special pets who help the school get rid of food waste. Tell the students that when the older kids have an apple core or a banana peel from their lunch, they don't throw it in the trash. Instead, they put it in a bucket on the SCRAP Cart which eventually is used to feed the school's pet worms.
- Tell students you are going to show them where the older kids place their fruit and vegetable scraps and then you are going to let them visit the worms. Explain that they must be very gentle with the worms because they are our friends and we don't want to harm them.
- Walk the students by the school's SCRAP Cart in the lunch area and point out the area where we keep the compost bucket. Explain that our worms are healthy and they only eat fruit and vegetables.
- Next, take students to the garden and open the lid of the worm bin so students can see where our pet worms live. Have students sit in small groups and pass out magnifying lenses. Give each group of students a tray with a worm on it (if you find lots of worms, place a few on each tray). Allow students to gently explore the worms with the magnifying lens.
- After a few minutes collect the worms and place them back in the bin. We do not want them out of their home for too long. Worms do not like to be in the sunshine.
- Finally, hand out a clipboard, paper and crayons and asked students to draw a picture of the worm they explored.
- Make sure students wash their hands when done with activity.

## SOURCE

- BCK Programs

