



**Ages: 2-5 yrs.**

**Time Required: 10-20 min**

## Discovery Time: Bugs!

*Learn how to make a bug hotel! (Ages: 2+)*

### Materials

- Reused tubes (paper towel, toilet paper, gift wrap, oatmeal container, egg carton)
- Items found in nature (moss, leaves, sticks) or shredded paper

### Try this!

**Step 1:** Collect some recycled materials such as paper towel tubes.

**Step 2:** Collect items in nature or shredded paper.

**Step 3:** Stuff the tubes full of natural items or paper.

**Step 4:** Attach the tubes together or stuff them inside a larger tube and place them under a tree.

**Step 5:** Check them carefully every week to see what living creatures you can find.



### What's going on?

Bugs come in all shapes and sizes, from bright butterflies to crawling cockroaches and so much in between. But where can we look for bugs? Many bugs can be found flying through the sky and near flowers. Some bugs live underground and can be found by rolling logs but remember to always roll your log back and to let your new friends go back home.

There are lots of bugs that are beneficial to humans, especially pollinators. Bugs provide many benefits to the ecosystem as well, in addition to pollination, they also are an important part of the nutrient cycle, and they are a huge food source for many animals. They face many different threats in human environments due to things like habitat loss, pollution and pesticides.

Bug hotels can benefit lots of different types of bugs, they can provide a safe space to shelter, lay their eggs and raise their young, while also providing refuge from predators. The best time of year to make a bug hotel is in the autumn since many bugs will be looking for a safe space in preparation for the upcoming cold weather, but you can make your hotel at any time of the year.

## Extension Activity

You can try out an experiment to see what bug hotel habitats work best by changing the items inside them; or to find out if there are some areas in your yard that can attract more bugs than others you can make the same type of habitat and place them in different locations. You can see how long it takes the bugs to come and use the hotel, and see which hotel has a greater number of bugs or different types of bugs inside it. Remember to write down your observations each time you check your hotel!

## Additional Resources

You can visit <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/educators/resource/discovery-time-bugs/> to learn more about bugs and see a step-by-step guide on how to make this activity! You can also check out other cool activities and tips on how to explore the outdoors with toddlers.

### Supporting Stories:

*Some Bugs* by Angela DiTerlizzi

*Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!* by Bob Barner