

## Child's Growth and Learning

**Domain:** Science

**Key Element:** Scientific Knowledge

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	MATERIALS
Observing Ants	Students will begin to make observations and describe processes of the ant farm-community.	One gallon jar with soil Dark paper Cotton Water Bread crumbs or cookie crumbs Honey or sugar water Ants from an established ant hill

### **Lesson Plan**

In small groups, teacher will facilitate this activity with students. Students will fill a gallon jar with soil. Teacher will have already found an established ant hill and will have collected with a shovel the surrounding dirt and debris of the hill into a 5 gallon bucket. Students will scoop with small shovels, some of the ant hill debris and dirt into the gallon jar filled with soil. The group will cover the jar with dark paper to encourage ants to make tunnels. Cotton will be placed on top of the dirt and watered small amounts every few days. Students will feed and water the ant home. After 1 week, the groups will check their ant farms and observe the tunnels and activities of the ants.

### **Guidance/Facilitation/Teacher Behaviors**

Teacher will prepare materials and guide small group to conduct the activity. Students will be encouraged to use sentences that include two or more ideas with descriptive details when observing. Students will be guided through comments and questioning, to investigate and expand knowledge.

### **Procedure/Process/Expected Child Behaviors**

Students will explore materials and make observations.

### **Extensions**

Provide scientific materials such as magnifying glasses, eye droppers, lab coats and observation sheets for recording findings. Conduct further experiments using light, temperature and moisture to make predictions and comparisons. Discussion and teaching to expand "What other animals or insects tunnel?"

### **Evaluation**

Student will develop observation and comparison skills. Student will begin to find answers to questions through active investigation.