

# Ann's Creative Corner

## Project #154: Watching Ants

- What you are going to teach: Ants live in families, ants care for eggs
- Materials Needed: One gallon (4 liter) clear glass jar, ant hill, digging tool, dark paper, cotton.
- What to do: Fill the clear glass jar about one half full of soil. Go for a walk to search for ants (often live in an ant hill). Observe the ants coming and going and collecting food. They carry the food to the hill or nest. This can be pieces of fruit if you place a Raisin for example. They will pick it up.
- After talking about the ants and the hill or home they have, try to take part of the hill including the surrounding dirt and debris and place it in the glass jar. Place dark paper over the top of the jar to encourage the ants to go underground. A piece of wet cotton on the dirt that is kept damp will supply the ants with all the moisture they need. The ants may be fed once or twice weekly by adding crumbs of cookies or bread to the jar. Occasionally, you should add a spoon of honey to the jar. Place the lid on the jar at all times so ants do not get out. You can punch holes into the lid for air.
- What to talk about: How ants live in families, what ants eat. How ants store and care for their eggs. How each ant has a specific job.
- An explanation of Principles: When a clean glass jar is used, children will be able to observe tunnels that are close to the sides. Like other insects, ant should only be kept for a short period of time in an artificial environment. Ants should not be kept longer than one month!

## Song: Ants Go Marching!

The ants go matching one by one. Hurrah, hurrah (repeat 2 times)

The little one stops to "to pick up sticks" And they all go marching down to ground to get out of rain. Boom, boom, boom.

Repeat for 2, 3, 4 etc with new stopping words "tie his shoe etc."

