

# Bugs In A Jar!



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Preschoolers  
2.5 - 4 years

The children can do more than count while doing this activity. There is room for discussion about different colors, learning different types of bugs and emotional regulation as they take turns.

## Learning Outcomes

### Domain:

Cognitive

### Skills:

Counting

### Indicator:

Counting in a meaningful way in play and daily living.



## Materials

- Mason jar
- Food coloring
- Small plastic bugs
- Water
- Piece of paper
- Marker
- Book – “Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!”

By Bob Barner



## Instructions

**Step 1:** Fill up the Mason jar with water.

**Step 2:** Have a couple of children gather at a table.

**Step 3:** Add any food coloring of choice – not too much, just enough to tint the water. You can also add in sparkles for extra fun.

**Step 4:** Add in several bugs and seal tightly – Can hot glue for extra security.

**Step 5:** Repeat this for a couple of jars so you have variety with different amounts.

**Step 6:** Number the jars.

**Step 7:** Have the children guess how many are in each jar and plot their guess down on the paper.

**Step 8:** Finally let them count how many are in them and plot it against their guess.

**Step 9:** Read the book “bugs! bugs! Bugs!” to inspire more ideas.

## Playful Questions

- How many bees do you count? (can change depending on the types of bugs in the jars)
- What color is the water?
- What is your favorite type of bug?
- How many bugs are there in all the jars?
- Where do bugs live?



**How Many Bugs In The Jar?**

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