

# ACTIVITY TIME

## Busy Little Creatures

By Fiona Bowden and Raising Literacy Australia

An engaging book full of busy little creatures sure to delight and fascinate both children and adults. A fun way to explore movement, colours, patterns, sizes and numbers whilst supporting your child's learning and encouraging outdoor play and adventure.

### Busy little ant maze

#### You will need:

- Template (attached)
- Natural items such as leaves, flowers, sticks, etc (optional)
- Colour pencils, textas etc. (optional)
- Sticky tape or glue (optional).

#### What to do:

1. Colour in the template to decorate it, if you like
2. Encourage your toddler to use their finger to start at the ant at the top of the maze, and trace their finger down to the other ant at the bottom of the maze
3. Describe the path they take "You are going right... and now down... and around a bend." You can use positional words such as up, down, left, right, around, under, etc. You can ask questions such as "Which way next?" This may help your toddler begin to understand positions and directions.

#### Other ideas

Collect natural items from a garden or park and use them to create little ants to stick on to your maze. Describe what you are doing "This little leaf can be a body, these little sticks can be legs, and a round rock for a head."

#### STEM FOCUS

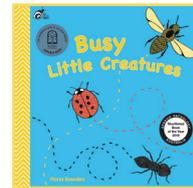
When children engage with the natural world they are developing curiosity that helps support an interest in STEM. While outside look for ants and talk together about what they look like, and what they are doing. You could put out some crumbs of bread or sugar. Watch the ants to see where they carry the food. You might find a trail of ants or even an ant's nest – but do not to touch as they may give you a bite!

#### Songs to sing

*Incy Wincy Spider, The Ants Go Marching and Here is the Beehive.*

#### Key message

Children are born ready to learn.



**Adult supervision is required at all times when children play or are around water.**



**\*You can introduce simple Science Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) concepts to children aged 2+ years through every day play.**

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