

“In the Wild”

Module 3, Small Worlds

The logo for "EXPLORE IT" is enclosed in a black rectangular border. The word "EXPLORE" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the letter "O" highlighted in green. The word "IT" is in a smaller, similar font, with the letter "I" highlighted in blue and the letter "T" highlighted in purple.

Prompt:

Use household materials to create your own tiny world!

- What kind of environment will it be? A jungle, forest, ocean, mountains, desert?
- What animals live there?
- What plants are there?
- Do people live there? What buildings do they live in? How do they go from one place to another?

Materials:

For this activity, use a mixture of natural materials and household items. You can use whatever you have on hand. Some suggestions include:

- Pinecones
- Leaves, pine needles
- Sticks
- Seashells
- Rocks
- Fabric scraps of many colors & textures (napkins, rags, etc.)
- Small plastic toys (animals, dolls, Legos, etc.)
- Small cars
- Blocks
- Coasters
- Compact or other small mirrors

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Set out the materials you gathered, and give your child any necessary safety or household rules that apply to the materials (for example, small objects might be chokable or some materials could be messy, etc.).
3. Have a short conversation with your child about what kind of small world they want to create. Ask them questions and listen to their responses.
4. Tell them they will have time to create their own miniature world using the materials you gathered together.
5. If it is helpful, give them a designated space to work – at or under a table or using

painter's tape to mark out a spot on the floor.

Resources:

Visitors at Boston Children's Museum loved doing this activity to celebrate Earth Day! Check out their designs for inspiration:



Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Challenge them to create small worlds based off of some of your favorite stories (create their own version of Arandelle, make homes for the three little pigs, etc.).
- Pretend that some type of weather (rain, snow, etc.) is about to hit their small world. Challenge them to adapt their world to the weather.
- Give your child a random household object (a plastic bowl, a serving spoon, a toothbrush, whatever!) and challenge them to incorporate it into their small world.
- Document it! Have your child take photos or draw a picture of their creation. Work together to write a story.
- Have your child dress up in an outfit that they would wear in their small world (for example, if their small world is an ocean they might want to wear a swimsuit and goggles!).

Together with your child, go to the “In the Wild” topic on Flipgrid and share their small worlds.