

Story Time

PlayWorld

Ideas for parents and carers

In this episode of Play School Story Time, Luke and Enzo Carroll share 'The March of the Ants' by Ursula Dubosarsky and Tohby Riddle.

The story is about a group of ants, the different roles they play and the decisions they make – including the littlest ant. It's also about the power of stories.



STEM learning
Ecosystems and the exciting work of scientists.

This PlayWorld supports: Connection to the natural world and a curiosity about science. It also fosters empathy and working together as a team.



STEP 1: View/read and reflect

As you read the story, wonder if the worker ants know how important they are and why they work together? How do you think the littlest ant felt when she made her choice?

STEP 2: Plan your play

Prepare these items

- A pretend ants' nest.
- A rock where the ants stop.
- A few fun facts about ants.
- A text message on the Ant Phone.



Dear Chief Ant,

My worker ants have given up. They've stopped marching. They don't know how important they are! Not just in my ant colony but in the whole ecosystem. I can't leave the nest: can you help?

From the Queen Ant

Then decide upon the different ant roles you will each play.



STEP 3: Go on your adventure

- Pretend to shrink to the size of ants and start marching. Can you make a fun game of it?
- As you march, use the opportunity to talk about the life of an ant, how strong they are and how they all work together.

STEP 4: Encounter a problem

Receive a message from the Queen Ant and read it out. How will you answer the question? Who knows about ants?

The adult can suggest talking to an ant expert – an entomologist. Then turn into that character and explain the role ants play in ecosystems. Ants work together and help each other - so can you.

Fun fact - If an ant was the size of a human it could carry a rhinoceros all by itself!



STEP 5: Learn through play

Make a video about some amazing ant facts, Play it to the stalled ants and march them back to the nest.

When you've finished the play, remember to turn yourselves back to your normal size.



Why this learning matters

This PlayWorld helps children learn how to solve problems, by turning themselves into little ants to help the Queen Ant.

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