

Rosalind O'Sullivan

**Junior kindergarten
Fletcher Maynard
Academy**

Garden Lesson:

Wonderful Worms!

citysprouts





The Fletcher- Maynard Learning Garden

Preparation

- Reread *Worms, Shadows, and Whirlpools* by Karen Worth and Sharon Grollman.
- **Naturalist:** A scientist who studies plants and animals outdoors.
- Class discussed the importance of respecting the worms' homes and their natural habitat.
- How would the children feel if something very large came into their homes?
- How would they want visitors to act in their homes?
- Children practiced safe ways to use tools.
- Children learned to pick up worms without hurting them.

Worms, Shadows, and Whirlpools

SCIENCE IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM



Karen Worth & Sharon Grollman

FOREWORD BY GRETCHEN OWOCKI



Class Discussion: Worm Rules

- **Be gentle, do not hurt the worm.**
- **Dig carefully.**
- **Share your tool and digging space.**
- **Remember you are a visitor in someone else's home.**

Activities

- Reviewed how to treat worms.
- Broke into groups.
- Each group used its tools to look for worms.
- Anyone who found a worm called out in excitement.
- The whole class rushed to meet the worm.



Activities

- **Students dug randomly at first, but became more intentional in their search.**
- **Children drew what they found.**
- **Students compared and contrasted the worms they found.**
- **Conclusion: There were more similarities than differences discovered in the worms.**

Activities

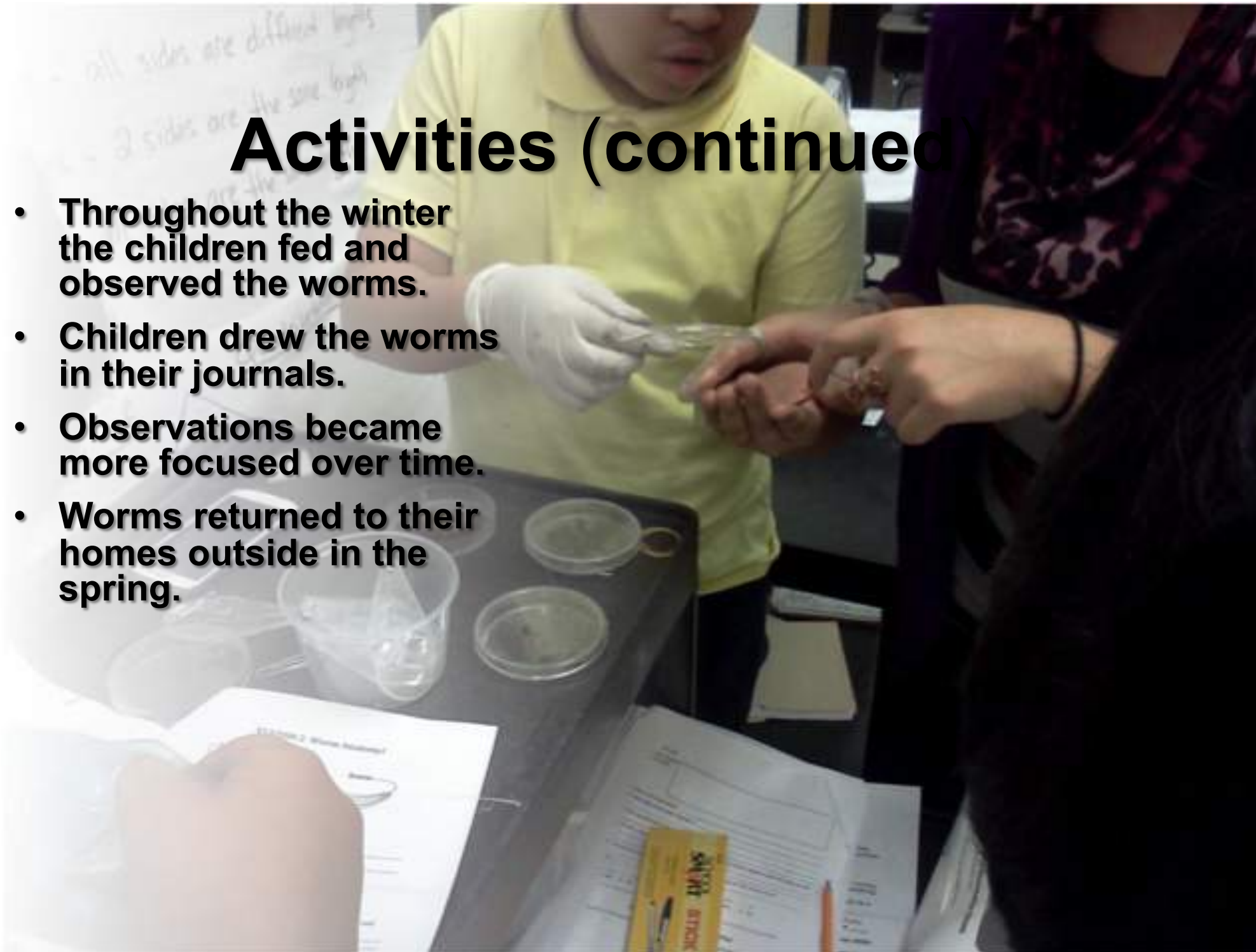
Winter (3 months later)

- **Class built a home for worms in our classroom.**
- **Invited our garden coordinator to talk about what worms need to live inside.**
- **Children collected good dirt, sticks, newspaper, and small scraps of food to create a home for the worms.**
- **Children dug up eight worms for the class terrarium.**



Activities (continued)

- Throughout the winter the children fed and observed the worms.
- Children drew the worms in their journals.
- Observations became more focused over time.
- Worms returned to their homes outside in the spring.



Outcomes

- **Children were sensitive to the worms and were quite careful in their treatment from the beginning.**
- **Over time the children became very keen observers.**
- **Children were encouraged to use their own observations to answer questions:**
 - **Do worms bite?**
 - **Do all worms have lines on their bodies?**
- **Studying worms developed the children's skills in observation and reflection.**

