

Simple Bug Catcher and Bug Observation



We catch and release bugs we find indoors at school and at home. At school, the children in our class loved to catch bugs and keep them in a little container to observe until we let them out when we went out to play. At home, I prefer for my kids to be able to take care of bugs themselves rather than yelling for me every time they see one. Still working on that, but I made a simple bug catcher for myself a while back and now that my son made one himself, I'm hoping it will inspire him! Most bugs we find in our homes around here are not dangerous to us. I live near the woods in Byfield and inside our house we primarily find house spiders, ants in the spring, and this year a surge of stink bugs.

Stink bugs came to the US from Asia about 20 years ago and can be devastating to gardens and crops. I never knew about them until they hunkered down in my attic in my child's cozy winter clothes bin last fall and started making their way out last month. They can't sting or bite you but they can give off a terrible odor if startled or squished. Amazingly, with all the stinkbugs I have removed from my house this winter, I have never smelled them.



My simple bug catcher is just a disposable container with holes poked in the top. All you need is:

- disposable container
- medium nail
- Hammer



Any plastic container would work but a clear one is good for observation. Simply seal the cover on the container and hammer a nail into the top a bunch of times to make air holes. Hammering holes in the cover is good practical life work for children so let them do it with supervision. Gentle taps work well on the thin plastic.

Older children might like this more advanced and really cool do-it-yourself bug catcher from the Eden Project.

[How to make a bug catcher -- Eden Project](#)

You will need:

- glass jar
- 2 straws
- large nail
- hammer
- small piece of fabric
- gaff or duct tape



Once you have a bug you can make observations. Count legs and draw a picture or fill out an observation sheet. If you found your bug outside be sure to return it as close to the same location as possible. Avoid stinging bugs like bees.

Happy bug hunting!

