

Physical Development

- Encourage the children to try finger painting to create or decorate some minibeasts. They could use their fingerprints to create a long caterpillar or add black spots to a red ladybird.
- Use chalk to draw a large snail in your outdoor area. Add a bucket with water and paintbrushes and encourage the children to create snail trails starting from the snail.
- Children can develop their scissor skills by cutting grass.
- Observe the movements of dandelion seeds as they are blown in the wind. You may like to begin by looking for dandelion heads in your setting and asking the children to blow, follow and chase the seeds.

Understanding the world

- Talk to the children about homes and habitats, and how our homes have what we need in them, such as food and water.
- Explore the effect that the force of the wind has on plants. On a windy day, encourage children to carefully watch plants and trees and describe what they can see.
- Encourage an appreciation of the rain by talking about the important role it plays in plant growth. On rainy days, children can splash in puddles, catch rain in buckets and watch the raindrops dripping from plants and trees.

Maths

- Encourage the children to use simple positional language by positioning toys and ask them where they are.
- At snack time, create caterpillar snacks! Cut grapes top to bottom in half and place them next to each other on a plate to create the body. Add a slice of strawberry for the face and raisins for eyes. Encourage the children to count the different body parts.
- Encourage children to explore lengths of things around them. – longer/shorter

Nursery – Summer Term
Our topics are
'Marvelous Minibeasts- Farm animals/pets
Growing- Transports-Summer'



Expressive Arts and Design

- Use tools to create minibeasts using recycled materials.
- Play role play games such as 'Move like a minibeast'
- Encourage and provide opportunities for children to wiggle, climb, slither, leap.. Etc.
- Provide children with flowers on stems for printing. Press the flowers heads and petals into a shallow tray of paint and print onto paper.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

- Talk to the children about caring for minibeasts in the local area and why it is important to look after minibeasts.
- Talk about using gentle hands when collecting minibeasts and using gentle hands with friends.
- Encourage the children to look after and care for minibeasts they find in the outside area. *Remind the children to be quiet near the minibeasts and to be very gentle if they handle them. Also, remind the children to put minibeasts back where they found them.*
- *Grow simple crop-bearing plants together, such as tomato or bean plants. Children can taste and share the crops that they harvest and feel a sense of accomplishment.*
- How to ask for help when in need.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Provide opportunities for children to listen stories and sing minibeasts / growing up songs.
- Use new vocabulary in context, providing hands on, real experiences such as planting and giving the children one simple instruction at a time to follow, such as 'Fill the pot with soil'.
- To be able to name and identify some of the minibeasts, plants and part of plants.
- Provide children with opportunities to 'squeeze', 'squish', 'dig', 'scrape' and 'move' soil, using vocabulary that has been modelled by an adult. You may like to set up a mud kitchen or large tray of soil to encourage this language.
- Encourage the children to go on a real minibeast hunt in their outside area and discuss what minibeasts they can find and observe.