

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Develop children's sense of responsibility around how we can all care for minibeasts. Think about how we can handle them appropriately and the importance of releasing them where we found them.
- Encourage children to be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs by using minibeast handling and working in nature as an opportunity to discuss the importance of washing hands.
- Encourage children to select and use resources to build different homes for minibeasts. Support them to work together to build the homes and develop their independence in making choices about where to build them.

Communication and Language

- Children follow two-part instructions to find hidden minibeasts around the setting. For example, 'go to the table and lift up the box'.
- Use of images to stimulate children's talk. Supporting them in using a wide range of vocabulary and longer sentences to describe the photos.
- Learn to sing a range of minibeast Songs and Rhymes to support language development and counting skills.
- Use minibeast costumes and Role-Play Masks for children to imagine and recreate stories and experiences linked to minibeasts. Extend their play with open-ended questions.

Physical Development

- Observe a range of minibeasts as they move. Children can then try moving like them. For example, they could climb over equipment and use large-muscle movements to practise flying like them, using flags and streamers to act like their wings.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment to mould and sculpt different creatures.
- Place sticky tape over a large activity tray to form a web and add some small world minibeasts. Children can use tweezers to reach through the web and rescue the minibeasts from the sticky web.
- Encourage children to take part in a group activity by playing spider web tag in a large space.

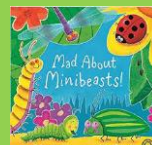
Literacy

- Using images or small world minibeasts, children choose a creature and count and clap the syllables in the insect names. Can children sort the minibeasts according to the amount of syllables?
- Use of large rolls of paper and mark-making tools for children to draw and represent the different creatures they find in their outdoor space, drawing freely and creating meaningful marks.
- Children share their favourite minibeast stories or songs, they can use the props to join in with movements and actions.
- Use a large box to make the head of a caterpillar to play the Caterpillar Feeding Phonics Game. Feed the sounds to the hungry caterpillar. Can they find objects that match that sound?

Key Texts-

Mad about Minibeasts, The very Greedy bee, First fact bugs, The very busy spider, Snail trail, The bad tempered Ladybird, The very hungry caterpillar

Summer Term Mad about Minibeasts



Maths

- Using leaves and small world minibeasts, place different amounts on leaves and count saying one number for each item in order to find the total amount.
- Develop fast recognition of numbers without individually counting them.
- Find minibeasts in a tray along with some grass, soil, leaves, bark and pebbles. Children find the minibeasts and discuss their locations, using prepositions, such as 'in front of' and 'behind'.
- Extend and create ABAB patterns using natural objects, such as leaf, stick, leaf.

Understanding the World

- Play with small world toys linked to the life cycle of a butterfly, along with magnifying glasses and display photos for children to investigate.
- Children can talk about what they see and how the minibeasts move using a wide range of vocabulary.
- Create minibeast worlds using soil, leaves, twigs and logs for children to explore using all their senses.
- Explore different minibeast habitats, such as pond life, wormery, caterpillar kingdom.
- How is honey made- visit to the Honey farm

Expressive Art and Design

- Children explore with a range of materials and accessories to enhance simple pretend play. Children can then create their own minibeast costumes.
- Children choose and collect resources to make imaginative minibeast small worlds in their own trays. For example, they could create a butterfly world using pom-poms, twigs, leaves and add butterfly peg creatures.
- Explore a range of drawing materials to create drawings of minibeasts. Support children to draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as adding ovals for wings, circles for the segments of the body and adding lines and dots for the antennae.
- Play musical instruments to express feelings and create sounds for different minibeasts in response to stories.
- Animal prints and patterns