

Nursery Newsletter – Summer 2

This half term, Nursery's topic is **minibeasts**. We will learn about spiders, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and snails.

During the final week of June, 5 caterpillars will be delivered to nursery. We are going to observe what happens to the tiny, tiny caterpillars.

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Minibeasts

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Take the children on a mini beast hunt. Talk about safety and looking after small animals
- Ask the children to imagine they are a tiny minibeast. What kind of things might frighten them?
- Explain how bees work together to make honey. Discuss how we can work together by helping each other

Physical Development

- Use playground chalk to draw spiders on the floor.
- Place skipping ropes on the floor and move along them in different ways
- Act out the different stages of a butterfly's life cycle
- Encourage the children to use their hands and feet to move like a spider

Communication & Language

- Enjoy a range of mini beast rhymes – incey wincey spider, there's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, Here is the beehive, Little Miss Muffet.
- Look at pictures of mini beasts. How do the children think the bugs got their names?
- Encourage the children to talk about the mini beasts they have found, using prepositions.

Literacy

- Make a record of the mini beast hunt by sticking mementos from the journey onto a strip of card. i.e., grass, twigs, stones etc
- Encourage recognition of initial sounds of the different minibeasts names.
- Make a list of words to describe a caterpillar/spider

Maths

- Make symmetrical butterfly pictures.
- Show the children a picture of honeycomb. Notice the hexagonal shapes that fit together. Children to make their own honeycomb with yellow card.
- Count the number of legs on a spider. Use peg legs and put numerals in order.
- Match amount and numeral by printing the correct number of caterpillar body parts next to the caterpillar's head

Understanding the World

- Make honey sandwiches
- Make balloon bees
- Use play dough to illustrate the life cycle of a caterpillar
- Use a variety of natural materials to make a

Expressive Arts & Design

- Use a paper plate with holes around the edge to weave spiders' webs
- Use music to move as different insects, flutter or creeping around.
- Use recycled materials to make giant minibeast to hang around the classroom

Optional Homework Activities

- Create a worm trail by dipping cooked spaghetti into paint and wiggling on paper.
- Go on your own mini beast hunt.
- Paint a pebble to look like a mini beast.
- Count how many butterflies you can see on a butterfly walk.
- Sing Incey Wincey Spider and act out the song
- Decorate a biscuit with red and black icing to look like a ladybird.

Stories

- The bug collector
- Honeybee
- Ladybird
- The very hungry caterpillar
- The crunching munching caterpillar
- Whoosh!, Walter's wonderful web
- Snail Trail

Songs

- Insects all around
- Here is the beehive
- I'm a little ladybird
- There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf
- The friendly caterpillar
- Incey Wincey Spider
- Snail