

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage children to talk about their own learning and achievements for weekly challenges (self-assessment). Also, talk about their peers learning and achievements (peer assessment).
- Show children a short clip of Honey I shrunk The Kids. Ask the children to imagine they are tiny minibeasts. What sort of thing might frighten them? Talk about the importance of behaving as 'gentle giants' when working with such small animals (links to UW).
- During circle time, talk about what scares people and once explained, explain that shadows and spiders etc. are not scary.
- Talk about how fragile butterflies are and the need to handle them as little as possible, and take care. Play pass the bells/keys, passing them around the circle, can they pass them without making a sound?

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

- Talk about minibeasts that change. Talk about the lifecycle of a butterfly. Tell the story of the hungry caterpillar.
 - Make minibeasts using salt dough and paint, helping to make the dough by moulding and rolling etc. Look closely at the colours of the minibeasts (links to PD & EAD).
 - Show children a video clip on bees making honey. Talk about how and why honey is made, explaining that the bees going from flower to flower collecting nectar to make honey. Explain how bees work together (links to PSED).
 - Sing along IncyWincy spider:
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?bbc=incyWincySpider> Ch. to sort out the clothing for rainy and sunny days.
 - Watch the video on Espresso about minibeasts. Look at the shape of them and the colours (links to CL).
 - Go on a minibeasts hunt; remember to look for webs if the children want to find spiders. Chn to record how many they see of each and where they found them, using prepositions (links to M and CL).
 - Experiment with magnifying glasses to look closely at minibeasts.
 - Make paper plate camouflage masks using sandpaper, leaves, flowers, coloured paper etc. Wear mask using either elastic, ribbon of a lolly stick.
 - Draw correct minibeasts to match the descriptions.
 - Teacher to describe different minibeasts and children to guess which one is being described. Use minibeasts fans.
 - Use smart page to show a garden, in which the children can place various minibeasts where they've seen them or where they think they might see them. Investigate habitats.
 - Make snail trails and patterns in wet clay on a black bin liner. Talk about the patterns they make.
 - Make balloon bees, partially blow up yellow balloons and decorate or make finger puppets.
- ICT
- Make symmetrical butterflies on 2paint.
 - Make caterpillar repeating patterns on IWB (links to M).

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Develop fine motor skills when using pens/pencils/paintbrushes.
- Practice dressing independently and dressing their bears.
- Use and hold scissors correctly.
- Children to move as minibeasts through an imaginary world.
- Parachute games- with minibeasts instead of balls.
- Develop bodily awareness and control in movement and ball games.
- Experiment with travelling and balancing using different body parts.
- Children to work as a whole class to make a human caterpillar, moving to the music imitating the caterpillar growing into a butterfly.
- Use tools with increasing control to make honey sandwiches, look at the shapes they can cut the bread into. Use sense to describe the honey (links to UW and M).
- Throw bean bags (bees) into hoops (flowers). Increase the distance.

Foundation Stage Medium Term Planning Nursery- Summer 1 Minibeasts

MATHEMATICS

- Make symmetrical butterfly paintings (links to EAD).
- Butterfly symmetrical matching game.
- Sorting and counting the fruit from the hungry caterpillar story. Use big hoops and get children to sort fruit into sets.
- Ladybird smart page. Matching numeral to quantity and adding two sets together.
- Provide a selection of minibeasts for children to arrange in order of size. Which has the longest legs? Smallest?
- Use plastic minibeasts for counting activities. Encouraging chn to touch each one as they count them. Provide numerals for MA or older chn to use in recording the count of each set.
- Kim's game- hide minibeasts. Do the same with shapes.
- Look at patterns of bees. Make a repeating bee patterns.
- Count how many spiders smart page.
- Separate the spots on the ladybird in different ways notice how the total still the same.
- Measuring worms with cubes and play dough focusing on shorter and longer (links to PD).
- Make comparisons with minibeasts and size of objects.
- Play a bee game where chn pick a card, identify numeral and take their bee on a tour of that number of flowers.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Introduce the topic by reading the story Superworm! Look at the shape and colour of the minibeasts. Encourage chn to ask questions.
 - Play a game of I spy..... with minibeasts in the middle. Encourage children to use descriptive word (links to EAD and UW).
 - Build attention span when listening and responding during daily activities.
 - Recall events, characters in the story, order events in the story.
 - Vocabulary extension – minibeasts, insect, spider, woodlouse, bee, wasp, fly, butterfly, caterpillar, snail, slug, beetle, change, growth, legs, wing , creep, crawl, hum, buzz ,flutter fly, weave, spine.
 - Read The bad tempered ladybird and encourage children to ask/answer questions.
 - Recognising initial sounds and words that rhyme.
 - Talk about minibeasts found on walk using prepositions.
- Role play: **Minibeast Investigation Lab** (links to M, PSED, and PD)

LITERACY

- Listen and respond to stories.
- Recall events, characters in the story, order events in the story.
- Sequence lifecycle of a butterfly in stages, number each stage (links to M and UW).
- Look at non-fiction books about the lifecycle of a butterfly.
- Look at minibeasts fact PowerPoint.
- Develop letter formation.
- Chn to write their name or copy, by writing each letter on a different circle to create a caterpillar.
- Describe what they have drawn/painted.
- Show an awareness of rhyme and alliteration.
- Hear and say initial sound in words.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Make spider finger puppets, 2 holes for fingers and 6 more legs (links to M). Sing IncyWincy Spider using puppets.
- Explore collage and mixed media to make pictures of food for the hungry caterpillar for display.
- Learn and sing songs about minibeasts such as, IncyWincy, worm at the bottom of the garden, Little Miss Muffet, there was an old lady etc. Children to carry out actions to accompany songs.
- Make spider webs patterns by dripping PVA glue onto black paper and sprinkle with glitter.
- Make large scale minibeasts in groups. Using recycled materials to hang from the ceiling. Look closely at the colours of minibeasts.
- Minibeasts printing using paint and minibeasts sponges.
- Make butterfly handprints.
- Make spiral worms
- Use a variety of natural materials to help build a home for imaginary minibeasts (to be used in role-play area).