

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Ask the children to name some Minibeasts. How many can we think of together?
- Make a list of all the Minibeasts we have thought of. Which are the children's favourites? Which don't we like? Why? How would we feel if someone didn't like us?
- Encourage children to share their experiences of minibeasts and which minibeasts they like to see.
- Talk to the children about caring for minibeasts and wildlife in the local area.
- If we see a Minibeast what should we do? Talk to the children about being gentle and not harming any insects.
- Set up a real life butterfly garden and encourage the children to watch as the caterpillars grow larger, build cocoons and change into butterflies – caterpillars provide lots of opportunities for observation and discussion.
- Set the butterflies free after observing them for a few days.

Indoor Enhancements

- Encourage the children to work together in teams to create minibeast houses in the block/construction area.
- Encourage children to create some symmetrical butterfly pictures by matching each other's decorations on either side of a butterfly's wings. Use a butterfly outline and decorate with small shapes, coloured counters or beads.
- Encourage independence by using Minibeast self registration cards
- Play Incy Wincy spider game in pairs or with 4 children. Encourage turn taking.
- Provide a mirror and some photos of minibeasts. Encourage the children to choose a picture and make a face to show how that picture makes them feel.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Hide toy minibeasts around the outdoor area. Encourage the children to work as a team to find them.
- Have [Minibeast Role Play Masks](#) available. Encourage the children to work together in groups to create their own narratives involving the minibeasts.
- Provide den making materials for children to work together to construct a 'minibeast den'.
- Encourage the children to look after and care for minibeasts they find in an 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. Encourage the children to help create homes and areas for the minibeasts to visit.

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Use resources for developing communication and language skills. Such as
 - Minibeasts Mind Map Starter Activity
 - Minibeasts What's Missing? Game
 - Minibeasts Describe It and Find It Activity
- Play a [Minibeast Sorting Game](#) with the children and encourage them to use language to describe the minibeasts.
- Challenge children to talk about and identify the minibeasts in a [Minibeasts PowerPoint Game](#).
- Think of an instrument that could be used for a few minibeasts e.g. a woodblock for a spider. Play a listening game where one child is blindfolded in the middle of a circle. The children in the circle take it in turns to play an instrument and their friends try and guess the minibeast.
- Use pictures of Minibeasts to prompt talk about each one and encourage the children to describe them to a friend.

Indoor Enhancements

- Have some masks and dressing up clothes available for the children to act out being different minibeasts.
- Try and provide audio copies of minibeast books for the children to listen to along with hard copies of the books and props.
- Challenge children to work in pairs to describe and identify items on a Minibeast' I spy' sheet
- Use plastic minibeasts for sorting activities and for sand play – add tubes and pipes to play Incy Wincy spider.
- Use non fiction books and fact cards to find out interesting facts about different Minibeast. Do these facts relate to their experience e.g. have they seen flies walking upside down on the ceiling?

Outdoor Enhancements

- Go on a minibeast hunt walk around an outside area and encourage children to talk about any minibeasts they see and hear.
- Hide [Minibeasts Photo Cut-Outs](#) around the setting and encourage children to talk about where they are hidden.
- Fill a large tray with soil, leaves and twigs and some small world minibeast toys. Encourage the children to explore and talk about what they find.

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Support children to cut out, assemble and join the pieces for Minibeast split pin characters
- [Minibeast Action Cards](#) could be used to encourage the children to move like different minibeasts.
- Encourage children to practise their fine motor skills using [Minibeast Sort Finger Gym Activity](#).
- Help the children to make some clay or play dough spiders. Encourage them to roll and shape the dough into a ball and then add pipe cleaner legs and googly eyes.
- Make spiders from black paper, cutting along pre-drawn lines for legs.
- Encourage the children to try finger painting to decorate or print some minibeasts – they could print spots onto a ladybird or make caterpillars of different lengths.
- Encourage children to practise their scissor skills using these [Minibeast Themed Cutting Skills Worksheets](#).
- Rachel Morgan to work with the children for 3 sessions this half term on Monday mornings beginning on 29th April
- Coach David in for P.E. sessions on Thursday mornings

Indoor Enhancements

- Use Minibeast playdough mats to encourage children to shape and mould minibeast themed models.
- Use Minibeast pencil control and maze sheets in the writing area to promote fine motor control.
- Thread paper plates with holes punched in to make spider webs.
- Provide a selection of beads or cotton reels and encourage the children to thread these onto laces to make caterpillars.
- Use ‘peg leg’ spiders to encourage children to practise their fine motor and counting skills.
- Use Minibeast stencils in the writing area.
- Use wooden tools to scrape off the black surface on some rainbow coloured paper to make web pictures.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Set up a messy play jelly tray. Add minibeasts to the jelly. The children have to use tweezers to catch plastic minibeasts in the jelly.
- Play some minibeast themed music or songs and encourage the children to move to the music – for example ‘The Flight of the Bumblebee’ by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.
- Make a large spiders web by threading wool, string and ribbons onto a large plastic hoop

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Introduce Minibeast stories by Eric Carle – The very busy spider, The very quiet cricket, The bad tempered ladybird and the very hungry caterpillar.
- Also read a range of other fiction – Aaarrgghh Spider, Ten little ladybirds etc
- The following are adult input plans, ideal for literacy skills. They can be found in the [EYFS Minibeasts Adult Input Planning and Resource Pack](#):
 - Minibeasts What's in the Box?
 - Rhyming String Spider Word Webs
 - Initial Sounds Spider Word Webs
 - Describing Minibeasts
 - Caterpillar Name Building
- Make a collection of minibeast words. See if the children can think of rhyming words for these or group the words according to initial sounds.
- Read a variety of stories and poems about minibeasts and encourage the children to listen carefully to all the different types of minibeasts mentioned.
- Provide [Letter Spiders](#) and encourage children to identify the letter sounds and practise word building with phase 2 and 3 phonemes.

Indoor Enhancements

- In the writing area, have Minibeast word mats, decorated page borders and colouring pictures available. Also have Minibeast shaped paper.
- Create a minibeast themed box of books for children to use with a variety of fiction and non-fiction ideas.
- Display Minibeast word cards with pictures on in the writing area.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Have a selection of writing tools available along with paper on clipboards so that children can draw/record which Minibeasts they have seen.
- Create a reading den outside using blankets and cushions and covered with sheets or tarpaulin. Have a selection of minibeast themed books available for the children to use.
- Provide some shallow trays of soil or mud and encourage the children to explore mark making and practise letter formation.
- Have a selection of mark making tools available for children to use, especially next to a minibeast area, or clipboards and pencils for the children to use around the outside area to record thoughts and ideas about minibeasts.

We have a pack version of this plan that also contains all relevant resources and can be downloaded [here](#).

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

Children can explore number and shape/size using a variety of Minibeast activities such as

- Ordering Caterpillars by Length
- Making short/ long caterpillars from playdough
- Ladybird addition (making totals by placing spots on wings)
- Matching symmetrical shapes on wings
- Using paper clips to make worms of different lengths attached to a number card
- Placing the correct number of ladybirds on numbered leaves
- Support children to read the questions and count the different types of minibeasts on this [Minibeasts Counting and Questions Worksheet](#).
- In Reception, learn about 3D shapes and their mathematical names then:
- Assemble these [Minibeast Themed 3D Shape Nets](#) and encourage the children to talk about the different shapes and their properties.

Indoor Enhancements

- Have this [Ladybird Bingo Game](#) available for the children to use.
- Laminate some [Minibeast Drawing Number Sheets](#) so that the children can use dry wipe pens to draw the correct number of features onto the minibeasts.
- Encourage children to practise their addition skills by using solve and colour butterfly addition sheets
- Provide these [Minibeast Drawing Number Worksheets](#) for the children to complete different minibeast pictures.
- Encourage children to roll a dice and draw the number of spots onto each side of a ladybird to create a doubles number sentence – how many spots does the ladybird have in total?

Outdoor Enhancements

- Print out [numbers 0-10/20](#) from this minibeast themed resource. Ask the children to order them by pegging them on a washing line outside or onto Velcro in the classroom
- Provide a selection of minibeast small world toys and encourage the children to sort them into sets – maybe based on colour, size, wings, legs etc.
- Hide a selection of the [Minibeast Display Numbers](#) in a shallow tray of sand or soil and encourage children to uncover and read them.
- Print out numbers to 20 on some [Numbered Beehives](#) and encourage children to add the correct number of [Bees](#) to each hive.

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Watch a [Life Cycle of a Butterfly PowerPoint](#) with the children. Give the children opportunity to comment and share their ideas. The children may then be able to complete a [Butterfly Life Cycle Worksheets](#), perhaps adding words or sentences.
- Talk to the children about homes and habitats; how our homes have what we need in them such as food, shelter etc. Talk about how minibeasts need that too and where they make their homes.
- Use the children's interest in minibeasts as a springboard to finding out more about them. Research on the Internet using a child-friendly search engine.
- Use pipes and guttering to investigate in the sand and water areas. Make Incy Wincy go down the spout.
- Make a range of Minibeast snacks e.g. Spider cakes, grape caterpillars and worms in dirt

Indoor Enhancements

- Create a minibeast garden small world area, including pretend grass and a selection of natural materials
- Use the Eric Carle DVD to watch the story of the very hungry caterpillar Add the book and props to the story area
- Use a paint/drawing program on the IWB for children to draw pictures of minibeasts.
- Provide a Bee-Bot for the children to use. Encourage them to draw a map on a large sheet of paper and program the Bee-Bot to visit flowers and reach the hive.

Outdoor Enhancements

- Use [Minibeast Cut-Outs](#) to make stick puppets. Create a small world area using a grassy or muddy area outside, along with pebbles and a mini-pond.
- Have some [Minibeast Hunt Checklists](#) available on clipboards for the children to use, along with magnifying glasses and minibeast catchers.
- [Minibeast Identification Sheets](#) could be laminated and available for the children to refer to.
- Encourage children to use magnifying glasses to look carefully at different minibeasts.
- Encourage children to use a digital camera to record their findings on a minibeast hunt.
- Put some snails onto black paper to observe the trails they make.
- Look for some spiders and spider webs. Encourage the children to use magnifying glasses to see more details and watch quietly to see how the webs are made.
- Plant a butterfly garden with lots of bright, colourful flowers to attract the butterflies.
- Plant vegetables in the greenhouse such as tomatoes and carrots.

Minibeasts

Adult Led Focus

- Craft activities
 - Handprint/blot print Butterfly Craft
 - Paper Plate Spider Craft
 - Ladybird and Bumble bee pebble craft
 - Incy Wincy Spider Craft
 - The very hungry caterpillar craft activities
- Use school radio website to watch and sing along to 'Incy Wincy Spider', 'Here is the bee hive'. Also sing Minibeast songs from twinkl
- Look at and discuss 'The Snail' picture by Henri Matisse. Encourage the children to create their own snail collage pictures with coloured paper
- Make a large Minibeast display, adding a new minibeast each week

Indoor Enhancements

- Have a range of junk modelling materials available for children to create their own minibeast houses and model minibeasts.
- Use [Minibeast Cut-Outs](#) to make stick puppets. Then provide a large box as a theatre for children to put on a minibeast show.
- In the painting area, have some [Minibeast Display Photos](#) displayed to encourage the children to paint minibeast themed paintings.
- Have [Minibeast Colouring Sheets](#) available for the children to decorate using a variety of materials and techniques.
- In the painting area, put photos from the children's minibeast hunt on display to encourage the children to paint spring themed paintings.
- Use percussion instruments to make sounds to accompany different minibeasts. Encourage the children to think about which instrument would be best for each minibeast and how they should be played (quiet/loud, slow/fast).

Outdoor Enhancements

- Create a [Minibeast Investigation Lab](#) role play area, including plastic minibeasts, magnifying glasses and humane insect catchers.
- Encourage the children to make some temporary minibeast models using natural materials e.g. leaves, flowers, petals and feathers. Challenge them to make models and sculptures and record their work by taking photos of their finished creations.
- Provide paper and pencils for the children to create observational drawings of any minibeasts they see.

EYFS Minibeasts Enhancements

Workshop

- [Minibeast Colouring Sheets](#).

Sand

- Fill with compost, small world minibeasts, stones, sticks and leaves.
- [Minibeasts Story Stones](#).

Construction

- Building minibeast houses in the block/construction area.
- Empty cardboard boxes and tubes and plastic tubs

Small World

- Minibeast garden small world area, including pretend grass, a selection of natural materials and this [Small World Background](#).

Mark Making

- [Minibeast Pencil Control Sheets](#).
- [Minibeast Drawing Sheets](#).
- [Minibeast Maze Sheets](#).
- [Minibeast Themed Cutting Skills Worksheets](#).

Writing

- [Minibeast Word Mats](#).
- [Minibeast Page Borders](#).
- [Minibeast Word Cards](#).
- Minibeast shaped paper/booklets.

Music

- Selection of percussion instruments to make sounds to accompany different minibeasts.
- [Minibeast Nursery Rhyme Booklet](#).
- 'The Flight of the Bumblebee' music by Nikolai

Water

- Set up a drainpipe and plastic spiders outside for children to investigate pouring water down to make the spiders move.

Painting

- [Minibeast Display Photos](#) to encourage the children to paint minibeast themed paintings.
- 'The Snail' by Henri Matisse – children create their own collage snail pictures.

Malleable

- [Minibeast Playdough Mats](#).
- [Messy Play Jelly Minibeast Catching Activity](#).
- Salt dough or clay to make minibeast models.

Investigation

- [Minibeast Discovery Sack](#).
- [Minibeast Hunt Checklists](#) available on clipboards, along with magnifying glasses and minibeast catchers.

ICT

- [Minibeast Role Play Masks](#).
- Minibeast dressing-up costumes.
- [Minibeast Investigation Lab](#) role play area, including plastic minibeasts, magnifying glasses,

Reading

- [Minibeast Book List](#).
- A selection of fiction and non-fiction books about minibeasts.
- [Letter Spiders](#).
- [Minibeast Read and Draw Sheets](#).
- [Minibeast Display Letters](#).

Role Play

- Audio copy of the book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' along with a hard copy and related props.
- Paint/drawing program on the IWB for children to draw pictures of minibeasts.
- Bee-Bots – children could program the Bee-Bot to reach a hive!

Maths

- [Ladybird Bingo Game](#).
- [Minibeast Drawing Number Sheets](#).
- [Minibeast Themed Cut and Stick](#).
- [Number Ordering Activity 0-10](#).
- [Minibeast Number Formation Workbook](#)
- [Butterfly Outlines](#).
- [Number Bonds to 10 Matching Cards](#).
- [Butterfly Addition Puzzle](#).
- [Double the Ladybird Spots Sheets](#).
- [Ladybird Number Sentence Sheets](#) and dice to practise

We have a pack version of this plan that also contains all relevant resources and can be downloaded [here](#)