

Understanding the World

Name and identify different minibeasts, e.g. fireflies. Learn facts about them. Find minibeasts in a garden area (place up-turned pots around area to attract insects), gently collect them and keep them for a short time to make observations (using magnifying glasses) of their features and how they move. Order live caterpillars – watch them change into butterflies.

Name different plants and flowers in the school/local area.

Contrast an English garden with a Spanish garden (different plants, bugs linked to climate).

Look at gardens through the ages (Tudor, Georgian, Edwardian, etc)

Grow cress and/or sunflowers – observe changes over time and record in a diary. Understand what a plant needs to grow well.

Learn about different life cycles – plant, frog, caterpillar, duck, etc.

Learn how bees make honey, taste on toast/over yoghurt.

Communication, Language & Literacy

Role Play Area: Garden Centre/Flower Shop

Labelling (parts of flower/bug parts)

A-Z minibeasts/plants

Minibeast poems (adjectives, verbs and alliteration), e.g. Inside your house, you will find a blue beetle boxing... (see plans from 2017)

Texts:

Nursery rhymes - Mary, Mary...Incy Wincy Spider...

Plants: Jack & the Beanstalk, My Bean Diary (large non-fiction text), Oliver's Vegetables, The Tiny Seed, Sam Plants a Sunflower, The Enormous Turnip.

Minibeasts: A Home for Curly (Rigby Star scheme book), How Bees Make Honey (non-fiction text), Mad About Minibeasts, The Bad-Tempered Ladybird, Superworm, Spinderella, Butterfly Kiss, The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

How to look after the environment, plants and minibeasts (picking up litter, using recyclable packaging, composting, gently moving a snail on the path to a safer place, etc)

Respecting habitats of minibeasts

Plants and their uses (tea, dock leaves to sooth stings, herbs to flavour food, vegetable plants)

Garden games (social development)

Personal hygiene - washing hands after playing/digging in the garden

Addressing fears of spiders and other 'creepy crawlies'.

Reflect on God's wondrous world (variety of plants and insects) – sing All things bright & beautiful...

* RE lessons also taught from Come & See scheme.

How does your garden grow?

Physical Development

Minibeast dance movements – practise and put into a sequence to music: flying, wiggling, sliding, hovering, wriggling, etc.

Minibeast obstacle course – climb along, under, over and through equipment.

Large scale movements: chalk wiggly worms on the playground floor and move along them.

Bee and Flower game – throw bee toy onto numbered flower target (keep score).

Sort seeds of different sizes and shapes, e.g. bean seeds, sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds (use pincers/tweezers & sieves – separate sand and seeds) * check allergies

Digging in a designated area – make mud pies

Water plants (pouring from a watering can with control, emptying and re-filling watering cans)

Mathematics

Measures – use non-standard units of measure to measure the height of own and each other's plants (unifix cubes). Order plastic worms according to length: short, longer, longest, etc.

Pattern – Look at, describe and recreate patterns in nature: tessellating hexagons in the bees honeycomb, symmetrical butterfly wing patterns.

Shape – investigate shapes that tessellate and those that do not. Make shape pictures of bugs/flowers.

Number – Counting sets of legs (repeated addition/multiplication), ways to share 6 spots on two halves of ladybird (then 8, 10, etc). Ways to pay in the role play area – garden centre.

Maths board games – Snakes and Ladders, Roll a die and build own minibeast game.

Sorting – sort minibeasts according to their features, e.g. has wings/no wings, has 6 legs/not, by size, etc.

Expressive Arts & Design

Sing rhymes: Mary, Mary quite contrary; Incy Wincy Spider, The ants went marching...etc

Mud prints – feet and hands.

Make vegetable soup/design a garden salad.

Make minibeasts – plasticine spiders with pipe cleaner legs?

Make flowers – daffodils with egg box centres?

Construction/modelling with junk/recycling – giant sunflowers and insects (connect cardboard tubes for flower stems or insect legs).

Large scale collages of bugs, flowers of a garden scene – use seeds, grass, soil, tissue paper, etc.

Let's draw...know how to and practise drawing bugs and flowers.

Role play stories/make up your own bug poems.