



Reception Weekly planning for Minibeasts Topic- Summer 1 2023



Week	Weekly introduction	Sand and water	Creative area	Outdoor area/ KUW	Writing area	ICT	Role play area
1. Caterpillars & butterflies	1. Ask the children to brainstorm all the different types of minibeasts they can think of. 2. Introduce class caterpillars – children to observe the caterpillars & talk about that they see. What do caterpillars eat? Where do they live?	Hide small insect figures and toys of minibeasts in the sand for the children to find and look at. Use the magnifying glasses to look closely at the minibeasts in the mud in a tray.	Draw a collection of minibeasts using the non-fiction books using pastels. Discussing the differences in minibeasts with wings/ no wings, legs/no legs, insects – 6 legs etc. Using clay, children can make a minibeast of their choice using a variety of tools and techniques. Learn the song: Tiny Caterpillar	Go on a mini beasts walk around school in small groups and try a find some animals that live around school. Report back on your findings. Use minibeast spotter sheet Discuss the different environments around the school (field, playground, forest school)	Make an information book about <u>one</u> minibeast. Reading Non fiction books and looking at the information they hold.	Use Busy things to colour in a minibeast of their choice Explore symmetry	Create an investigative Minibeast lab/workshop using masks, books, notepads, models etc for children to pretend they are in a minibeast lab.
2. Caterpillars & butterflies	Explore & name parts of a butterfly. Explore the Make symmetrical butterflies by printing shapes on templates.	Hide small figures and toys in the sand for the children to find and look at	Cut out a butterfly shape, print with shapes on 1 side and then fold in the middle to create a symmetrical pattern. Free Painting. Paint a minibeast of their choice Learn the song: Tiny Caterpillar. Use percussion instruments to accompany the song	Using a washing line – sequence pictures to show the life-cycle of a butterfly. To create a minibeast trail for the bikes outside, drawing pictures of minibeasts in chalk on the floor	Make an information book about life cycles and other animals Read Non fiction books and find information about Butterflies	Use 2paint to draw caterpillars and butterflies Use Busy Things to Complete the Life-cycle of a Butterfly	
3. Spiders	Introduce spiders. How many body parts do they have? How many legs do they have? Name the parts of their bodies Where do they live?	Freeze small minibeasts and watch the ice melt away, revealing the minibeasts inside.	Paint a Spider. Sing Incy Wincy Spider. Make spider webs with string	Using the instrument box children think about how they can use the instruments to make different animal and habitat sounds Order the life cycle cards on the outside washing line	Complete a fact file about spiders Write labels for parts of a spiders body Read Non fiction books and find information about Spiders	Use Busy Things to labels parts of a spider	
4. Bees / Wasps	1. Introduce Bees /Wasps as minibeasts. Explore parts of their body Where do they live? What do they eat? How many legs? How many wings? How many eyes?	Sort different types of beetles in the sand tray, suing tweezers and specimen pots	Make kitchen roll bees. Learn song: There's a worm at the bottom of the garden	Learn how honey is made. Watch: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/clip-clip-video/geography-ks1-how-honey-is-made/z7j76v4	Read Non fiction books and find information about Bees Write labels for the body parts of a bee.	Use 2paint to draw bees / wasps. Use Busy Things to labels parts of a bee	
5. Ladybirds	1. Introduce ladybirds Explore & name parts of their body Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they move? Why do they have shells? Explore symmetry		Make ladybirds crafts Learn the song A B.U.G. (Out of the Ark)	Children draw pictures of animals on the floor outside using chalk and label them. Complete a minibeasts scavenger hunt – where did you find the different minibeasts? What environment do they live in?	Read Non fiction books and find information about Ladybirds	Use 2paint to draw ladybirds / spiders	
6. Snails/ slugs	Introduce Snails & slugs Explore parts of their body Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they move?		Read Snail and the Whale Story by Julia Donaldson Make newspaper snails Make a snail trail.	Children use various materials to make animal homes using large construction	Write a fact about snails Read Non fiction books and find information about Spiders	Use bee-bots to move along snails trail in tuff tray.	