

Meet the Minibeasts EYFS

Session Overview and Learning Objectives

Session Summary

- This session is suitable for one class of up to 30 children
- It lasts 50 minutes for groups
- Recommended ratio – 4 adults:30 children

The children will walk to a designated site suitable for minibeast hunting, where they can spend time safely collecting a variety of creatures. They can use magnifiers and ID sheets to help them identify the animals and sort creatures according to the number of legs they have, introducing them to the basics of classification. The circular route then takes them to another site to using symmetry to decorate butterfly wings.

We strongly recommend dividing your group into two, setting 15 off in a clockwise direction and 15 anticlockwise.

Remember to ensure the right walk group leader has the medication for the children in their group.

Session Outline

Time	Location	Activity - Group 1 Travelling clockwise	Activity - Group 2 Travelling anticlockwise
5 mins	Trail	Walk to site M1	Walk to site M4
25 mins	Minibeast site	Minibeast hunt (site M1)	Minibeast hunt (site M4)
15 mins	Minibeast site	Butterfly wings (site M5)	Butterfly wings (site M2)
5 mins	Benches	Plenary	Plenary

EYFS Statutory Framework

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These are the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design



Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives / Activities	Expected Learning Outcomes
Minibeast Hunt <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explore woodland habitat● Collect creatures with care and consideration for their wellbeing● Use picture keys for identification● Sort creatures according to common characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All will have first-hand experience searching for and collecting animals carefully● Some will be able to sort creatures into categories● A few will be able to identify creatures using the picture key
Butterfly Wings <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduce the concept of symmetrical patterns● Explore how butterflies have bilateral symmetry on their wing patterns● Explore making patterns and matching shapes, textures and colours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All will use teamwork, taking turns and listening to each other● Some will be able to plan and create a pattern● A few will be able to recreate a matching pattern
Slug and Bug Eyes (extra) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use the slug and bug eyes to explore how other creatures see the world● Introduce the concept of compound eyes● Explore how features of creatures can help them survive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All will have the opportunity to see the world through bug eyes/slug eye mirrors● Some will begin to understand how these features might help a creature survive
Minibeast Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reflect on the activities and what has been learnt● Share facts and experiences with the group● Solidify memories of the experience by recapping them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All will be able to name at least one creature● All will have explored the habitats and noticed some differences between them