

# Learning at Home

~Nursery

Topic:

Life cycles / Minibeasts

**K**ey Texts: The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Argh Spider, The Bad Tempered Ladybird, How to Grow a Butterfly Garden, Billy's Beetle, Amanda's Butterfly, Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell, Doug the Bug, Superworm, Mad about Minibeasts and a selection of information books about bugs. Songs: Incy Wincy Spider, There's a Worm at the Bottom of my Garden, There's a tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf, The ants went marching, Ladybird, Ladybird. See <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-26833-minibeast-themed-songs-and-rhymes-resource-pack> Sign up for 1 month free using code: CVDTWINKLHELPS  
Useful websites: Cbeebies— <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/mini-beast-adventure-with-jess> Number game <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering> Minibeast resources <https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/resources/47437> Create a minibeast <http://www.ictgames.com/minibeasts.html>

## Useful Websites / Apps

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm)

Username: HOME Password: MARCH20

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-self-isolation/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/>

<https://www.redtedart.com/?s=minibeasts>



## Physical Development

- \* See useful websites such as Go Noodle, Cosmic yoga and Joe Wicks on Youtube for daily movement breaks
- \* Go for a walk, run or play in outside space whenever possible.
- \* Practice fine motor skills through Dough Disco, playdough, threading, using pegs, making arks in trays of sand, salt or shaving foam, using dough to make worms, snails or another minibeast
- \* Move like a mini-beast—wriggle, hop, jump, fly, crawl and move at different speeds
- \* Folding paper to make a minibeast such as a caterpillar
- \* Threading pipe cleaners onto shape to make legs for a minibeast
- \* Hunt for bugs in the garden
- \* Using tweezers or tongs to pick up plastic bugs
- \* Set up an obstacle course in the garden

## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- Clapping syllables of names of insects eg la-dy-bird = 3 claps
- Play a guessing game where you describe a bug for an adult to guess eg 'It is slow. It lays eggs.'
- Introduce new words such as chrysalis, cocoon, larvae, antennae, compost, insect, minibeast, symmetry,
- Share stories, knowledge and songs about minibeasts.
- Minibeast story bags – e.g. a plastic minibeast, a leaf, a twig, a cup and a shoe – tell a story as the children pull out the props
- Use puppets to re-tell stories or make up your own.



## Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Talk to an adult about your favourite insect. Are you scared of any bugs? Why? Talk about your feelings to an adult.
- Treat minibeasts with care. Talk about how to handle them carefully and to release them after you have finished observing them.
- There are lots of feelings in the Bad Tempered Ladybird Book. What makes you cross? What makes mummy or daddy cross?
- Play a turn taking game with an adult such as Bug Bingo, build a beetle or rolling a dice to put a number of black spots on a ladybird shape.



## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

- Paper plate minibeasts
- Make a minibeast from playdough and use pipe cleaners for legs and wiggly eyes
- Make an Incy Wincy and pipe using a card tube and egg box
- Make some minibeast puppets and act out a story you know
- Paint a folded butterfly
- Make a bottle top caterpillar or other bottle top bugs
- Use plastic bugs to play with
- Hold an Ugly Bug Ball- make a minibeast hat and dance to music



## Mathematics



- Practice counting 0-20 as much as possible.
- Counting the fruit in The very hungry Caterpillar story
- Look at counting spots on ladybirds Can you match it to the numeral?
- Count the number of legs on different minibeasts
- Look at patterns. Can you make a repeated pattern on a caterpillar? Can you make a symmetrical butterfly?
- Use a timer to see which minibeast can crawl/move the fastest

## LITERACY

- Practise tracing and writing your name
- Make letter shapes using leaves or twigs or in the mud
- Make your own book of minibeasts by drawing pictures and writing or tracing their names
- Read a selection of books including information books
- Follow minibeast patterns – spirals/stripes/wiggly lines using different media such as chalk, pens, sand, gloop, crayon etc

## RE

- Read and learn the school prayer with your family
- Make a prayer box at home and with your family write down different things to be thankful for. Each day thank God for one thing from the box.
- Read about Pentecost Day from a child's Bible



## Understanding the World

- **Look on a computer or tablet and learn some facts about different insects**
- **Talk to an adult about where you might find different insects- this is called their habitat**
- **Look at life cycles of caterpillar and other insects**
- **Make a bug hotel from recycled materials**
- **Go on a spider's web walk looking for webs**

