

Activity		Minibeast hunt	
Key:	Due the various abilities of our children we have graded some of the activities into different levels.	Contact details:	schools@cdssgroup.org.uk
Seeds			
Saplings	Your child may access different levels depending on the activity as well as their ability.		All Education Advocates access this email. Sarah Larkin (Cheshire West) Becky Harris (Cheshire West) Yvonne Edwardson (Cheshire East)
Trees			

Brief description of Activity

A simple activity to get outside and look for minibeasts. Minibeasts are small creatures, like worms, snails, insects and spiders. The scientific term for them is 'invertebrates' meaning creature without a backbone. What can you find in your garden today?

Resources needed

- Spoons
- Paint brush
- Collecting pots with lids
- Magnifying glass if possible



Activity - Seeds

Tips for Mini Beast Hunting



- Always put logs back the same way up
- Don't stand on logs, you might squash the mini beasts living underneath!
- Keep slugs separate to your other mini beasts. Slugs stick to everything!
- Look carefully. Lots of minibeasts are a similar colour to soil that they are living in.
- Keep quiet and tread lightly – you don't want to scare the mini beasts away.
- Be gentle.

Look around the garden with your child for mini beasts (insects!). You will find them hiding under rocks, stones and logs. In blades of grass and on the leaves

and flowers of plants. If you dig up some soil you may be lucky and find a worm. Slugs, snails, ladybirds, butterflies, ants, woodlouse, bees, beetles, caterpillars, spiders - there are lots to find.

See if you can gently collect any with the equipment you have and put them in your collecting pots. Use your magnifying glass if you have one and look carefully at the bugs in your pots.

Are they furry or smooth?

Do they have lots of legs or no legs? (Twinkl resource attached for this)

How many legs have you got?

Do they have wings?

Where do the mini beasts live, in a web, under a log, on a plant?

What colour are they?

Can you see their eyes or mouth?

Do they have ears that you can see like we do?

Introduce the word **insects**.

Make a picture chart (or use the Twinkl chart attached) to record what you have found.

How many of the minibeasts on the chart can you find?

Can you write down the number or find the Numicon frame?

Tick off the mini beasts on the chart as you find them.

Can you remember all the different names of the mini beasts/insects. Which one is the beetle/ladybird/worm.

Activity – Saplings and Trees

Talk about **habitats**. The place where any animal lives is called its habitat. Habitats can be very big like in the artic where polar bears live, or very small like a tiny spiders web on the wall. Remember, a habitat is just somewhere that an animal lives. Your house is your habitat!

Mini means small and **beasts** means animals, so minibeasts are just **small animals**. If you would like to you can introduce the word **invertebrates**.

Can you make a log pile somewhere in your garden for the **invertebrates** to make into their **habitat**?

After your mini beast hunt make sure you let them all go again to go back to their habitat and you can go back to yours 😊

Have a look at ladybirds and their spots. There are some activity sheets to complete that look at doubles and halves by putting spots on ladybirds.

Play a game of dominos or there are many minibeast bingo resources on Twinkl.



Attachments

- Minibeast tick sheet
- Categories sheet – legs or no legs
- Ladybird dominoes to 10 doubling
- Ladybird dominoes to 20 doubling
- Ladybird halving numbers

Cheshire Downs Syndrome Support Group

Registered Charity Number 1146127.

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