



MINIBEAST ACTIVITIES

Introduce children to the wonderful world of invertebrates.



Areas of learning

communication and language
understanding the world
literacy
mathematics
expressive art and design

You will need:

- small magnifying bug pots or yogurt pots
- identification card (on next page)

Minibeast role play

Look at how the minibeasts move—can the children wiggle like a worm, crawl & fly like a ladybird or slither slowly like a snail.

For younger children you could sing songs about the minibeasts, e.g. 'There's a worm at the bottom of the garden' or read stories, e.g. 'Snail Trail' or 'Superworm'.

Where to find minibeasts

Look for minibeasts (invertebrates—animals with no bones) in damp places under logs or in dead leaves. If you turn over a log to look make sure that you put it back as you found it.

Carefully collect the minibeasts

Show the children how to carefully collect the animals into the pot (you can use a leaf as a scoop) and to not shake the pot. Find out what they are, using the card below, by counting their legs and matching their colour. The animals must be carefully returned to their habitat afterwards.

Worm charming

Find a damp area of grass and run on the spot for a minute. Stop and check whether worms have appeared and try again. Count the worms or see who has found the longest one.

Minibeast art

Use leaves, sticks and twigs to make a picture of a minibeast on the ground. Count the correct number of legs. For younger children, you could make the outline and they fill it in using leaves.

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Turning over logs to look under them



Investigating them in a pot



Minibeast art showing legs and antennae



woodlouse



beetle



ladybird



snail



worm



snake centipede



Snake millipede



slug



spider



brown centipede



flat backed millipede



ant



earwig