

## Bug hunting

When insects and small creatures start to emerge it's an ideal time for children to explore the wonders of the natural world.

### Learning aims

- Awareness of the natural world
- Sharing and enjoying books
- Building relationships
- Caring for living things
- Investigation and exploration
- Creative and critical thinking
- Playing and exploring
- Counting and awareness of number
- Creating something for a purpose.



### Resources

- Books/pictures/information leaflets on mini-beasts
- Magnifying glasses
- Insect viewers
- Mini clip board with pictures of common insects
- Pencils
- Crates, slabs, bricks, rocks, wooden materials, old containers etc. to build a bug hotel.

### Activity Outline

- Share books about mini-beasts with the children and encourage them to think about what bugs they may see in the garden or outdoor area
- Ask the children to point out pictures of insects they may know and name them
- Research the habitats of the mini-beasts you hope to attract with the children, talk about what they think the insects may need e.g. shady areas, 'bedding' etc.
- Explore the outdoor area with the children to find a spot for the hotel that will suit the habits of the bugs and can be easily accessed by the children too
- Remember, your bug hotel needs to be sturdy and safe for small hands to explore
- Collect the materials and equipment that you'll need, consulting with the children as to how and where to build the hotel, thinking about what might attract mini-beasts to the area
- Support the children to be patient and regularly observe what and how many creatures the hotel attracts
- Take photographs of children interacting with it and discuss amendments with the children as the hotel becomes populated

- Involve children in creating a book all about their 'bug hotel' to share with parent