

Create a nursery bee hotel

Help children to understand the importance of bees by creating a bee hotel at your nursery.

Learning aims

- Understanding of the world
- Caring for living things
- Creating something for a purpose
- Using tools and equipment
- Keeping safe.

Resources

- Two litre plastic bottles
- Sandpaper
- Sharp knife
- Strong twine
- Garden clippers/secateurs
- Modelling clay
- Bamboo
- Rulers/measuring tools
- String
- Marker pen
- Dry nesting materials e.g. grasses.



Activity outline

Adult preparation:

- Cut both ends of the bottle off with the sharp knife to create a cylinder
- Rub the sandpaper round each end if necessary to smooth the edges
- You could ask children to think what these cylinders are made from; then show them an uncut two litre bottle
- Explain how you prepared the cylinder from the bottle and talk about using tools safely.

The activity:

- Lay out all the materials on a table and explain what you are going to make
- Use visual images such as photos and books to show bees in their natural habitat and images of different bee hotels
- Talk to the children about the importance of bees and why we should look after them
- Encourage children to measure lengths of bamboo to go inside the cylinder
 - The lengths should be about 3cm shorter so they fit nicely inside the cylinder and don't get wet
- Use mathematical language e.g. such as measure, length, shorter than
- Cut the lengths of bamboo and use the sandpaper to smooth off the edges
 - Depending on the age/stage of the children and the materials and tools available, you could get children involved at this stage
 - Ensure this is well supervised; carry out a risk assessment to ensure children are kept safe and know how to stay safe while using tools and equipment
- Next, press modelling clay into the end of completely hollow canes. This will also help to secure the canes
- Help the children to put the canes into the cylinder
- Ensure you thread a length of twine through the bottle before it is full so you can hang it up outside
- Complete fill the bottle with canes until it is tightly packed, then take it outside and hang it up
- Position the bee hotel in a sunny, rainproof spot.