

Looking for mini beasts

What we know

Nature has many ways for children to learn how the world works.

The insects and creatures of the garden often appeal to young children.

Looking at how these creatures move, eat, hide or survive can help to stimulate your child's curiosity through questions, observations, comments and other ways of expressing themselves.

Exploring the creatures that live around you is a great way for your child to learn about the environment.

What to do

Explore in a garden, park or balcony. Look for insects and talk with your child about where these 'mini-beasts' live and what they eat.

Talk together about the size and shape of insects such as ants, caterpillars, snails and beetles. This encourages your child to learn to categorise things by size, colour, type and shape — maths!

You can collect an insect in a bug catcher but make sure you let it go again.

Act out the wiggling worm, the sliding snail and the flapping butterfly.



A book to read

Miss Spider's Tea Party
by David Kirk



ISBN 978-0-9871210-6-6

Things to say

- 'What do you think we will find?'
- 'Where can we find some small insects in the garden/ park/ balcony?'
- 'Careful! We must be very careful not to hurt them.'
- 'Will we find a worm? What do worms do?'
- 'Will we find a grasshopper or a butterfly?'
- 'Are there any ants on our path?'