

Nursery Class Timetable - Summer Term Week 5

Our theme is 'In the Garden' and our story focus is 'Mad about Minibeasts' by Giles Andreae.

Please use these ideas as a basis for your child's learning at home. You can revisit and adapt the ideas throughout the week to develop your child's interest and to consolidate their learning. Remember to also take time to observe your child and to then follow their individual needs and interests.

Message from Mrs Patterson...

"Well done for all the wonderful learning that you are doing at home. I have enjoyed reading about and looking at the photographs and videos of your home learning adventures. Please keep sending them in to our nursery class email address; also, if you have any questions or queries feel free to get in touch."

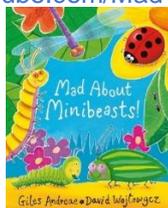
nursery.montalbo@durhamlearning.net

Literacy

• Can you listen to the story?

If you don't have a copy of the story at home, you can watch it on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/Mad about Minibeasts>



After listening to the story, you could:

- talk about the different minibeast in the story, which one is your favourite and why? You could introduce and model descriptive vocabulary to your child e.g. *'my favourite minibeast from the story is the snail because it has a multicolored shell and it moves very slowly.'*
- encourage your child to answer questions about the insects in the story. Below are some example questions...

*What is the caterpillar crunching?
Why does the spider have a web?
How many legs does the bee have?
Where is the earwig balancing?*

• Can you play I spy with my little eye?

You will need to gather together 5 different objects. Name each one to check that your child knows what they are. Then begin the eye spy game using the initial letter sound of the objects, not the alphabet name, e.g. 'I spy with my little eye, something beginning with t.' Remember to take turns to play the game.

Some children may not be developmentally ready to hear the initial sounds in words; instead you could adapt the game and identify the objects by their colour, size, sound, use, pattern etc... This game will help to develop your child's listening skills; which is another crucial pre-reading skill.



This is such a versatile game and it can be adapted to suit different abilities and learning intentions.

Physical

Fine Motor:

• Can you draw the rest of the minibeast?

You could challenge your child to mark make the rest of the minibeast. You could draw half of it, or you could use the images provided on the website. Remember to celebrate all mark making that your child does.



**I have added some half images to the website for you to print or copy.*

Health and self-care:

• Can you be more independent?

Remember to encourage your child to be more independent in their self-help skills; mastering a new skill is such a great achievement. Below are some self-help ideas that you can encourage and practice at home:

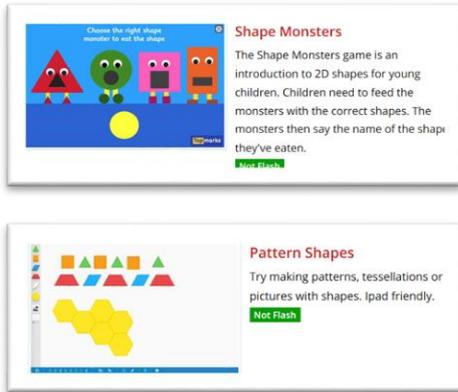
- I am learning to put on and take off my own footwear.
- I am learning to take off and put on my own socks.
- I am learning to put on and take off my own coat, and I try to fasten in.
- I am learning to use my knife and fork.
- I am learning to tidy my toys away when I am finished.

You don't need to do all of these at once but try to make time in your daily routine to practice some. Remember to celebrate the small steps that your child makes, this will encourage them to keep trying.

Maths

- Can you play the shape games?**

Have fun together exploring these online shape games.
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk-Shapes>



- Can you make different shapes?**

Using resources that you have in your home, such as lolly sticks, cocktail sticks, spaghetti, strips of paper/card, straws, pipe cleaners etc... can you create the shapes below? You could pose questions about the shapes: Have you seen the shape before? Does it look similar or remind you of anything? Can you spot anything the same shape in your home?



Whilst creating the shapes you could also talk about the properties of the shapes (why it is special) e.g. a square is special because it has 4 sides that are all the same length. I wonder what else you could create with the resources.

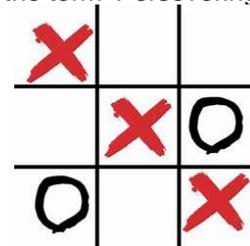
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Can you be kind and thoughtful to others?**

To show children how to be kind and thoughtful they need to see others being kind and thoughtful. To encourage this, you could award special hearts or stickers to anyone in your home who is being kind and thoughtful. You will need to talk to your child and give examples of how they could do this. Also, ensure that when you spot them doing these kind things, you explain to them why, e.g. *'wow, you are getting a heart because you helped to clear the table'* or *'you were so thoughtful because you picked that up for me when I dropped it'*. Your child can also give out hearts, you could have them in a pot ready to award to family members when they are spotted being kind and thoughtful.
**I have added a sheet of heart awards or you can simply use stickers or make or use your own.*

- Can you take turns to play noughts and crosses?**

This is a simple game that can be lots of fun. It can support and encourage your child to take turns, to start to think tactically and it helps them to understand that they might not always win, but that they should persevere and keep trying. At nursery we use the term 'Persevering Parrot'.



Understanding the World

- Can you create your own bug hotel?**

To encourage more minibeasts to come and live in your outdoor area you could create your own bug hotel. This could be an ongoing project; first you will need to spend time gathering the materials needed for your bug hotel and then you can work together to construct the new home.



**I have added a bug hotel information sheet to the website to give you some ideas.*

- Can you sort the minibeasts?**

Over the last few weeks we have been finding out about lots of different minibeasts. I wonder if you can remember some of the things that you have learnt and can sort the minibeasts in different ways. You could sort them by colour, size, where they live, how they move, how many legs etc...

**I have added a minibeast sorting activity to the website or you could use toy minibeasts, you could look at images and talk about the similarities or differences or you could draw them and then sort them.*

Communication and Language

- Can you fill in the missing words of the nursery rhymes?**

The BBC has a great website filled with lots of well-known songs and rhymes. You could spend time together singing and acting them out.



You could also challenge your child by pausing or muting the song and seeing if your child can fill in the gaps. Your child could also challenge you or other family members to see if you can fill in the gaps.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/nursery-rhymes>

- Can you follow instructions?**

This game involves developing your child's understanding of prepositional language, e.g. on, under, next to, in-between, beside, in front etc...

Follow the link below to watch a video about a cheeky monkey that keeps hiding.

<https://www.youtube.com/Monkey>

You could then play your own hiding game using a toy and a chair or box. You could give your child instructions to follow, e.g. *'can you put the toy under / on / next to / in front of the chair?'* If your child is able to do this you could challenge them to give you instructions to follow.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Can you draw or create a bluebell picture?**

Have you seen the beautiful bluebells down the woods? Bluebells are my most favourite flower, I grew up on a farm and we had our own wood and I remember going for lovely walks through the bluebells with my dogs. I even had bluebells from our wood at my wedding.



I wonder if you could create a bluebell or flower inspired picture for me. You could take a photograph and send it to me via the nursery class email address.

- Can you explore the sounds of different objects?**

This week you could explore making your own music and experiment with the different sounds that surfaces, containers and objects make. At nursery we sometimes go on a drumming walk using sticks, paint brush ends, pencils etc. and we explore the sound in the environment, you could try this at home. You could also use pots, pans or tupperware etc... as drums and you could explore the different sounds that they make.



Follow the link below and Maddie from CBeebies will show you how to make your own drum:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/ Do you know?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/Do-you-know?)

**The ideas for your learning at home is based on the seven areas of learning from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.*