

Focus plan for Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Activity - Snail Snacks Date -

Learning intention

Show an awareness of change.

Find out about, and identify, some features of living things, objects and events they observe.

Resources

This activity can be done over 2 or 3 days:

A large Perspex box, suitable for housing snails

Twigs, leaves to make the snails feel at home

Snails!

Large sheet of paper and pens

Some things snails might like to eat, and some they might not - e.g. cucumber, lettuce leaves, cake, cardboard, paper, plastic shape etc.

How the activity will be carried out

Invite the children to help you collect some snails from your outside space. Ask the children what the snails might like to have in their special box to make them comfortable. Gather these things and put them in the box. What would the snails like to eat? Collect the children's ideas on a sheet of paper (using words and pictures). Support them if required, and add some that the snails definitely won't eat, like a plastic shape. Invite the children to put a selection of these things into the snail box. Tell them that they are going to watch each day to see what the snails have eaten. Return to the snails over the next day or so, asking questions with the children: Has anything been eaten? Do they notice any changes? Do the snails like cake? When it seems appropriate, gather the children round the snail box and begin to record what they have found out. Use the same sheet of paper, making two quick columns, one with a smiley snail and one with a cross snail for food they ate and food they left. Talk with the children about the things the snails ate, how they can tell they have been eaten, were there any surprises? Take the snails back outside and release them with the help of the children.

Questions to ask/Language to use

What kind of food?

What do you think will happen?

How do we know?

Did you think that would happen?

Slimy trail/teeth marks/ like/dislike/hungry

Differentiation (Birth to Three)

Give the children lots of opportunities to look at the snails. Put only two things to eat in the box, such as a lettuce and a plastic shape, to make the results very clear.

Extension

Give children their own recording sheet so that they can use pictures or ticks to record their own findings.

Evaluation

