

### Personal, social and emotional

- Role Play- make a bug den
- Circle times – caring for creatures and their habitats
- Make a special moment out of releasing bugs back into the garden
- Watching the life cycle of butterflies/frogs in the nursery setting
- Talk about the life cycle of a human
- Stories and poems
- Small world play
- Puppets

### Communication, language and literacy

- Make up nonsense rhymes about minibeasts
- Role play – make a bug den using boxes, coloured paper, newspaper, fabric, pot plants
- Dressing up as minibeasts
- Small world play – tray with earth, gravel, small pond, pot plants and plastic minibeasts
- Minibeast puppets to retell and create stories
- Follow minibeast patterns – spirals/stripes/wiggly lines
- Book making and story sequencing
- Talking and listening games
- Minibeast story bags – e.g. a plastic minibeast, a leaf, a twig, a cup and a shoe – tell a story as the children pull out the props
- Circle times
- Songs and Rhymes
- Fiction and non fiction books

### Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Grow your own butterflies/frogs
- Go on a spider's web walk looking for webs
- Go on a minibeast hunt (outside, and inside with plastic minibeasts)
- Magnifying glasses, bug boxes
- Life cycles
- What do minibeasts eat?
- Cooking – honey sandwiches, honey cakes
- Small world minibeasts in sand and water trays
- Plant a butterfly garden
- Be a minibeast detective in the vegetable patch looking for signs of minibeasts

### Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

- Minibeast surveys using tally/mark making charts
- Minibeast counting games – spots, legs, wings
- Sorting – minibeasts with legs/spots/wings etc
- Repeating patterns - threading bead caterpillars
- Measuring quantities in cooking (honey sandwiches/honey cakes)
- Water tray – five little speckled frogs
- Sequencing – life cycles
- Symmetry – butterflies
- Patterns and shapes
- Stories such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar/The Bad Tempered Ladybird for sequencing and time
- Minibeast counting rhymes

## **Minibeasts**

### Physical

- Dance to the Ugly Bug Ball song
- Dance to The Flight of the Bumble Bee music
- Move like a minibeast
- Use props to support minibeast movement e.g. scarves for butterflies/ hoops as waterlilies for frog
- Over and under instruction games – moving like a worm/caterpillar
- Threading beads to make worms/caterpillars
- Cutting minibeast patterns – e.g. spots, spirals, wiggly lines, stripes
- Making minibeasts from malleable materials

### Creative

- Make spider's webs
- Junk model minibeasts
- Observational drawings of minibeasts
- Water colour paintings of minibeasts
- Make your own minibeast garden – collect natural materials and use box or small tray for each child
- Make minibeasts out of clay
- Butterfly symmetry
- Have an Ugly Bug Ball – make appropriate head wear for different minibeasts and dance to the Ugly Bug Ball music
- Listen to a nature sounds CD of bug sounds
- Create bug sounds with musical instruments