

Ideas to suggest to parents:

- Point out dogs, cats, birds and other animals/ minibeasts that your child may see
- Talk to your child about the different features of animals eg. shabby, spotty, large, small, pointed ears etc.
- Point out to your child, foods and materials for pets, e.g. in the supermarket or pet shop.



Personal, Social and Emotional development

- Group animal cards according to families
- Make a book of pets to share
- Discussion about losing a pet (feelings)
- Invite a visitor to talk about a pet and bring a pet in
- Awareness of the need to care for the habitat in which mini-beasts live
- Sharing a pet – bringing happiness to others
- Story: *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat*.

Physical Development

- Take a pretend pet to the vet on a bike/ scooter
- Move like an animal or mini-beast (run, scuttle, jump, slide, slither etc.)
- Slides and obstacle course – Chase the hamster
- What's the time Mr Wolf?
- Parachute game – listen to the name of the animal/ mini-beat and run into the middle if yours is called.

Communication and Language

- I am thinking of an animal/ mini-beast game – descriptive language
- Pairs – name the mother and baby
- Same and different:
 - Discuss photos of different breeds of the same animal
 - Compare cuddly toys and discuss same/ different attributes

Expressive Arts and Design

- Find your partner – animal sounds
- Music: Saint Saens' Carnival of Animals – can you move like the animal?
 - *Five Little Speckled Frogs*
 - *Five Little Ducks*
 - *Old Macdonald*
 - *I went to visit a farm one day*
- Observational paintings/ drawings of pets
- Make a pet mask
- Cardboard tube giraffe
- CD Monkey face
- Coffee filter butterfly
- Ladybird pebble
- Weave a web
- Make a shoebox home for a pet
- Animal faces on paper plates
- Making biscuits with animal cutters
- Mini-beast lacing cards
- Collage of a beehive with cereals

ANIMALS/ MINI-BEASTS

Understanding the World

- Go on a minibeast hunt
- Use magnifying glasses to make closer observations of minibeasts
- Bug box – what can you see in here?
- Match the food to the pet
- Where do animals/ mini-beasts live/ sleep?
- Floating and sinking plastic animals in the water
- Make a home for the animals in the sand
- Visit to Chaucer Woods

Literacy

- Picture Lotto – can you match the animals?
- Poetry – Rumble in the Jungle
- Favourite Animal Poems
- Stories: *Dear Zoo, Flea's Best Friend, I want a pet, My Cat, Prowlpuss, Six Dinner Sid, Topsy and Tim and the new puppy, Topsy and Tim look after their pets, The Hungry Caterpillar*
- Non-Fiction: Mini-beast Books (spider, ladybird, ant, woodlouse, caterpillar)
Writing information about an animal at the vets
- Record mini-beasts found on playground (clipboards, pencils and paper)

Mathematics

- Count the animals you found hidden in the sand
- Play animal games – use a dice, spinner and use memory skills
- Put the animals/ mini-beasts into pairs – are there any without a partner?
- Which cuddly toy will fit into this box?
- Sort cuddly toys according to size
- Pictogram – which pets do you have or would you like?
- How many hidden animals/ mini-beasts can you see in the picture?
- Which cuddly toy is heaviest/ lightest?