Minibeasts: adult input plan

1 to 2 weeks · ages 2 to 5 · adult-led and child-initiated ideas for six learning areas

Big questions

- Where do minibeasts live?
- How do they move?
- How can we look after them?

Key words

ant · bee · beetle · butterfly · caterpillar · dragonfly · ladybird · slug · snail · spider · worm · bug hotel

Area	Adult-led (small group, 10 to 15 minutes)	Child-initiated (set it up, then step back)
Talk and listening	Bug in a box: hide a toy minibeast in a feely box. Children ask yes or no questions (Does it have wings?) until someone guesses it.	Clipboards, minibeast photo books and a magnifier by the window or garden door, so children can talk about what they spot.
Early reading and writing	Make a class minibeast book: each child draws one minibeast and tells you a sentence to write underneath. Read it back together.	Mark-making table with leaf-shaped paper, minibeast stampers and blank labels for children to name the bugs they draw.
Maths	Count spots on paper ladybirds, then make one with more and one with fewer. Older children try the count-and-graph sheet.	Stones numbered 1 to 10 in the sand tray with a toy bug on each; loose parts to make legs and count them.
Exploring the world	Minibeast hunt with the spotter sheet. Lift logs and stones gently, look closely, then put them back exactly as they were.	Build a bug hotel from sticks, cones, bark and tubes in a quiet corner; check it each week for visitors.
Creative play and art	Symmetry butterflies: paint one wing, fold and press, then talk about what matches on both sides.	Small-world tray with soil, leaves, stones and toy minibeasts; clay or playdough nearby to make their own.
Moving and fine motor	Move like a minibeast: wriggle like a worm, flutter like a butterfly, scuttle like a spider, curl up like a snail.	Tweezers and pom-pom bugs to move into egg-box homes; beads to thread onto pipe-cleaner caterpillars.

Families: go on a minibeast hunt in a garden or park this week, and send in a photo or a drawing of what you found.