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| **Minibeast Mission ( 45 minutes)** | |
| Equipment   * Bug pots * Paint brushes * Minibeasts pictures * Sweep nets * First aid kit * Phone   Health and safety   * They need to be aware of nettles * They should stay with one other person; no children should go off on their own. * They should be within sight of you; otherwise they've gone too far, set boundaries. * They should not run with bugs in their pots. * They must not put their fingers in their mouths. * They need to use their paintbrushes to make sure they don't hurt the minibeasts. | |
| Time | Activity |
| 10 | Introduction   * Sit the children down if it’s relatively dry (this usually ensures their attention). * Briefly talk to them about what a ‘minibeast’ is and ask if they can name any. Talk about minibeast adaptions to their habitat, including how they don’t have a backbone (invertebrate). * Talk about what a ‘wet’ minibeast is and what a ‘dry’ one is. * Show them how to gently catch a bug in the pot using the paintbrush, and tell them to put them in the correct trays (wet or dry tray) when they’ve caught them. * They should have no more than 3 minibeasts in their pot at any one time. |
| 30 | Minibeast hunt   * As they are hunting for minibeasts walk around helping the children to discover minibeasts and identify them. If warm give out nets to children, to use in longer grass if you are in that area. * After approx. 20 minutes call them back in, collect the pots and paintbrushes. Sit them around the trays in a circle and have a look at what they’ve caught, by passing around the tray and box. Tell them a few facts about the minibeasts they have found. * Then ask what we should do with the minibeasts they have caught, when you have the correct answer, send a couple of well-behaved children to empty the box and tray or do this yourself. |
| 5 | Minibeasts match   * Hand out the minibeast cards. * Get the children to find their partner with the same minibeasts. * Then call out facts about groups of minibeasts and those holding the appropriate card must come up. |
| Extra | Minibeast fact race   * Line up children into 2 rows and number each row 1 to 10. 1 should be opposite 10 and 2, 9 etc. * Five Minibeasts will be lined up in the centre; the leader will call a fact about the animal and a number. * They children should then race to get the animal first, if they do they will score a point for their team. |